Tuesday,
14th August, 1956

LOK SABHA DEBATES

VOLUME VI, 1956

(13th August to 8th September, 1956

THIRTEENTH SESSION, 1956

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday 14th August 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Nationalisation of Coal Mines

*1050. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a formula for the payment of compensation in the event of general nationalisation of coal mines, including the working mines has since been finalised; and

(b) if so, the nature thereof?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when this will be finalised?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I am not quite sure what the hon. Member has in view when he has put this question. The question relates to the general nationalisation of coal mines, including the working mines. Government has no proposal before it for the general nationalisation of coal mines. No formula is being considered in this connection.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know whether the Government proposes to take over some of the mines which are not being worked but which are owned by the private owners? In that case, will any compensation be paid to them?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not know if the hon. Member has in view the unworked areas of the various leases or the working mines. It is difficult to answer unless this is made more specific.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: I meant the leases.

Shri K. C. Reddy: There is a proposal before the Government to acquire the unworked areas of the various leases. Certain proposals are under consideration. No decision has yet been taken.

Shri P. C. Bose: May I know whether, on account of the indecision of the Government as regards nationalisation, there has been very little investment in the mining industry during the last several years and also whether the Government has come to an agreement with the private owners with regard to investment?

Shri K. C. Reddy: There has been no indecision on the part of the Government in regard to this matter as the policy of the Government has been clearly stated most recently, on the Industrial Policy Resolution of 30th April. Government has said that no guarantee can be given in respect of non-nationalisation of these mines. The method of nationalisation of these mines will depend upon the circumstances at the time when Government take up this question.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: May I know if the Government has under consideration any proposals with regard to such mines as are not uneconomical but are being worked uneconomically due to enterprising inefficiency?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not quite follow.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: It is so simple. Has the Government any proposal under consideration for such mines which are not uneconomical themselves but are being worked out uneconomically due to enterprising inefficiency?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Such matters to which the hon. Member has referred to are being continuously examined by the Coal Commissioner and the Acts we have in regard to this matter are sufficient for us to take necessary action.

Kashmir Princess

*1051. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the reply given to starred Question No. 16 on the 16th February, 1956 and state the result of the effort

made by the U.K. Government to get the suspect who sabotaged the Air India International Plane "Kashmir Princess", extradited to HongKong ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Government of India have been informed by the U.K. Government that the Formason authorities have refused to entertain their request for the extradition of the alleged culprit on the ground that there is no Extradition Treaty between U.K. and China. A statement issued by the U.K. Government on the subject was placed on the Table of the House while answering Starred Question No. 16 on 16th February, 1956.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know if, in the light of the statement made, no further efforts will be made to get hold of the alleged culprit?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Government of India has made every effort and wherever an opportunity offers itself, it makes further efforts. But, the position has been explained to the House. We cannot deal with the Formosan Government directly at all as we do not recognise it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether any effort is being made to approach the United States Government under whose umbrage Formosa is existing today?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think any formal approach has been made to the United States on this subject. Informally these matters are very well known.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: According to that statement, this sabotage was due to the Kuomintang Intelligence Organisation. May I know whether any other person has been arrested in this connection?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: Despite investigations, it has not been proved that there was any other person involved in this sabotage.

Shri Joachim Alva: Is there any admission by the British authorities of their failure to take prompt steps, when the Chinese Government advised them of certain happenings before this incident?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know what the hon. Member is referring to. The reference is to the Hong-Kong Government, I presume. The Hong-Kong Government says that it took every step. But things happen inspite of steps. The story is that the steps that the Hong-Kong Government took were to prevent people from going to the air-port but the actual culprit was inside-one who actually worked there, so that the steps that were taken did not affect the situation at all.

कागज का निर्माण

*१०५३. **श्री भक्त दर्शन:** क्या वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री २२ मई, १९५६ के तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २४०८ के उत्तर के सम्बन्ध में यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या जर्मनी और इटली के विशेषज्ञ दलों ने भारत में कागज के निर्माण के बारे में अपनी ब्योरेवार सिफारिशें भेज दी हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन सिफारिशों को स्थूल रूप-रेखा क्या है ; और

(ग) उन पर क्या निर्णय किया गया है ?

भारी उद्योग मंत्री (श्री म० म० शाह) : (क) २२ मई, १९५६ को तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या २४०८ के उत्तर में जैसा कि मैंने बताया था उसके अनुसार अभी सिर्फ प्रारम्भिक रिपोर्ट ही प्राप्त हुई है । अन्तिम रिपोर्टों और सिफारिशों का अब भी इन्तजार किया जा रहा है ।

(ख) तथा (ग). ये प्रश्न उठते ही नहीं ।

मैं आपकी आज्ञा से यह भी बतलाना चाहता हूं कि इसका एक मुख्य कारण यह है कि वह निष्णात टीमें यहां के रामैटीरियलज की अपने कारखानों में पायलोट ट्राइल्स लेना चाहती हैं । प्राथमिक जांच से यह पक्की तरह पता चला है कि न्यूजप्रिंट बनाने में बगास का इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है ।

Shri C. P. Matthen: I would request him to repeat it in English.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may kindly reply in English also.

Shri M. M. Shah : (a)As stated in my reply to the Starred Question No. 2408 on the 22nd May, 1956, preliminary reports have only been received; the final reports and detailed recommendations are still awaited.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

With reference to part (a) of the answer, I may add, with your permission, that this is due to the fact that the expert teams want to conduct pilot trials with our raw materials. One thing has been established through these pilot trials that bagasse can be used for the manufacture of newsprint.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इन जर्मन और इटैलियन विशेषज्ञों ने क्या भारत सरकार को यह सूचना दी है कि देर से देर कितने समय के अन्दर वे अपनी अन्तिम रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर सकेंगे ?

श्री म० म० शाह : कोई निश्चित तिथि तो नहीं दी जा सकती है लेकिन जितनी जल्दी हो सकेगा उतनी जल्दी उस रिपोर्ट को प्राप्त करने की हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या गवर्नमेंट ने कोई कार्यक्रम निर्धारित किया है कि इन विशेषज्ञों की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद क्या उसके मुताबिक तुरन्त कार्य प्रारम्भ कर दिया जाएगा या पिछले नवम्बर में जो पैनल नियुक्त कर दिया गया था देश के अन्दर जो कागज सम्बन्धी रौ मैटीरियल आदि हैं उनके बारे में रिपोर्ट देने के लिये, इन दोनों को मिला कर तब विचार किया जायेगा ?

श्री म० म० शाह : जो टीम भारत सरकार ने इंस्पैक्टर जनरल आफ फारेस्टस की चेयरमैनशिप में नियुक्त की थी, उसकी रिपोर्ट के साथ ही इन टीमों की रिपोर्ट जब मिल जायेगी, जांच पड़ताल की जायेगी और तब सब बातें सोच के कोई निर्णय किया जायेगा ।

Shri Joachim Alva: May I know the difficulty of publishing reports of this type which can be termed as of 'minor confidential nature' when the Government publishes Dr. Appleby's report explaining completely the activities of the Government?

Shri M. M. Shah: This question, firstly, does not arise out of this question. The only reason for not publishing these technical reports sometimes is this. Different technical teams have different approaches to certain technical problems. They would not like to divulge the technique given in the report. It is for the Government always to consider these reports confidentially so that their trust is maintained.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : अभी माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा कि ये विशेषज्ञ इस बात की भी रिपोर्ट करने वाले हैं कि हमारे यहां अखबारी कागज के लिये कितना माल मिल सकेगा । क्या इन विशेषज्ञों को दोनों तरह के कामजों के सम्बन्ध में जानकारी देने के लिये कहा गया है यानी मामूली कागज और अखबारी कागज के लिये या केवल अखबारी कागज के लिये ? साथ ही क्या यह आशा की जाती है कि इन विशेषज्ञों की रिपोर्ट आने के बाद दोनों तरह के कागजों के कारखाने यहां स्थापित किये जा सकेंगे ताकि हमें बाहर से कागज न मंगाना पड़े ?

श्री म० म० शाह : यह विश्वास किया जाता है कि वह तीन किस्म की हिदायतें करने वाले हैं—(१) न्यूजप्रिंट के बारे में, (२) सारे कागजात के बारे में और (३) सब किस्म के पल्प के बारे में, जिसका कि इस काम में और रेयोन बनाने में उपयोग होता है । आशा है कि जहां तक हो सकेगा, देश इस सम्बन्ध में अगली पंचवर्षीय योजना में सैल्फ़-सफ़िसिएन्ट हो जायेगा ।

Shri Sarangadhar Das: May I know if bagasse is going to be used for papers making, then what is the alternative fuel that will be supplied to the factories?

Shri M. M. Shah: So far the trials have proved that bagasse can only be used for newsprint. The trials for paper are still being undertaken. As far as alternative fuel is concerned, there is plenty of coal available in this country which will be supplied to those factories.

Village Forests under Second Plan

*1054. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether they have any plan to encourage the formation of Village Forests; and

(b) if so, how many such forests are planned to be formed in the Second Five Year Plan period?

Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific targets for the plantation of village forests have been laid down in the Plan for the country as a whole-

It has however been recommended that the formation of village forests mainly for the purpose of providing fuel should be encouraged by the National Extension Service with the help and guidance of the forest and agricultural departments. Several States have, included in their plans specific schemes for the plantation of village forests and a provision of Rs.55 lakhs has been made in the State Plans for the purpose.

Shri Madiah Gowda: Will Government give sufficiently high priority for these village forests during the Second Five Year Plan so that the problem of firewood and fodder may be solved ?

Shri S. N. Mishra: It has been given due priority. I do not know what the hon. Member exactly means by high priority. High is a comparative or relative term.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : क्या गवर्नमेंट के ध्यान में यह बात आई है कि पिछले कई वर्षों से उत्तर प्रदेश के पर्वतीय जिलों में कम्यूनल फ़ारेस्ट्स—पंचायती जंगल—बड़ी सफलता के साथ कार्य कर रहे हैं ? क्या और राज्यों को इस प्रकार की हिदायत दी जा रही है कि वे अपने प्रदेशों में भी उसी माडल पर गांवों में जंगल बनायें ?

श्री श्या० नं० मिश्र : उसी आधार पर हमने कोई हिदायत नहीं दी है, लेकिन राज्य सरकारें एक दूसरे के साथ अनुभव-विनिमय कर सकती हैं और मैं समझता हूं कि वे उससे लाभ उठा सकती हैं ।

Shri Shree Narayan Das: May I know what is the estimated area that will be covered by these forests in the Second Five Year Plan?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I have not totalled up the entire area. I have given the financial magnitude for all the programmes. They are in terms of acres.

Aluminium Industry

*1056. **Shri Ram Krishan :** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1769 on the 4th May, 1956 and state:

(a) whether Government has received the report from the Expert Committee for the development of Aluminium Industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Heavy Industries Shri M. M. Shah: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri M. M : Shah: I may add with reference to answer to (a) that the report is expected within a month.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : क्या माननीय मंत्री जी को मालूम है कि जहां तक एलूमिनियम धातु का सम्बन्ध है, उसके लिये बाक्साइट की सब से अधिक आवश्यकता होती है और वह हमारे प्रदेश में और विशेषकर जबलपुर जिले में उपलब्ध है ? थोड़े दिन पहले एक रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित हुई थी कि कटनी में एक एलुमिनियम फैक्टरी चलाई जाने वाली है । क्या इस पर कोई विचार किया जा रहा है ?

श्री म० म० शाह : यह हमको मालूम है कि कटनी में बाक्साइट मिलता है, लेकिन एलुमिनियम फैक्टरी के लिये केवल बाक्साइट की जांच-पड़ताल ही काफी नहीं है । यह भी देखना पड़ता है कि किसी स्थान पर विशेषकर पावर (बिजली) कितनी सस्ती और कितनी तादाद में मिलती है और बाक्साइट की क्वालिटी कैसी है जहां तक कटनी का सम्बन्ध है, भारत सरकार की तरफ से कोई विचार ज़ाहिर नहीं किया गया है ।

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy : May we know how many aluminium plants are proposed to be set up in the Second Five Year Plan in the private sector and in the public sector and also the capacity?

Shri M.M. Shah: So far the decision has been taken only for one plant to begin with of the capacity of 10,000 tons per annum at Mettur in Salem district. This plant will be in the Public Sector. Regarding the other requirement of another 10,000 tons, the matter is still under consideration.

Shri Joachim Alva : In view of the heavy demand for aluminium for the growing aircraft industry, do Government mean to expedite their search for aluminium and also cancel the licences for aluminium which have not been utilised at all for years ?

Shri M. M. Shah : We are trying to make the country as self-sufficient as possible within the shortest possible time in aluminium . Regarding the cancellation of of licences, no such contingency has arisen.

Shri T. S. A. Chettiar : May I know whether this aluminium plant is entirely in the public sector or is it to be also in the private sector?

Shri M. M. Shah : The one I have indicated is in the public sector by the National Industrial Development Corporation.

Glass Industry

*1057. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the extent to which the requirements of the country for glass articles are met by the products of the indigenous Glass Industry?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo) A statement giving the current demand and production in the year 1955 is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 43].

Shri Jhulan Sinha : Will the hon. Minister refer to the statement and state whether any special efforts are being made to make the small leeway that remains to be made up regarding items 1 to 8 and to develop the last two items of this industry ?

Shri Kanungo : Efforts are being made to instal additional and to develop some of the existing capacity for specialised productions and we hope that in the course of 5 years the production will go up. Regarding the last item, plate glass, the demand for it is so low that it is not economic to produce it in our country at the moment. As regards optical glass, Government is considering a project for establishing manufacture of that item.

Shri V. P. Nayar : I find from the statement that the demand for plate glass is about a million and a half square feet. I also find that in sheet glass, we have got some deficiency. May I know whether, considering these two aspects together with all the side problems of Ambalapuzha-Shertala region of Travancore-Cochin, where it has been already suggested by the State Government to have a glass factory, the Government of India have considered the desirability of starting a glass factory there ?

Shri Kanungo : I take the information. As far as the production of plate glass is concerned, I have stated that the present demand does not justify a plant for that.

Shri Joachim Alva : There is a demand for 150 to 200 tons of optical glass. I want to know what measures are being taken for the production of optical glass as also in regard to thermos ?

Shri Kanungo : I have mentioned just now that Government is considering the stepping up of production of optic and opthalmic glasses.

Flood in Agartala

*1058. **Shri Biren Dutt** : Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many documents of the office of Rehabilitation Department have been washed away by the recent flood at Agartala;

(b) whether applicants for loan are not getting the granted amounts due to loss of documents caused by flood; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps are being taken to expedite the disbursement of loan ?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) No.

(b) and (c) . Do not arise.

Shri Biren Dutt : Some cases have been referred to ; did he enquire about them?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna : Certainly. What happened was that some files got wet. After they dried up payments have been made. During that period there might have been some delay but at no time payment of loans has been stopped. If any particular case is brought to my notice, I shall gladly look into it.

Shri Biren Dutt : It is said that in the Collectorate some documents had been spoiled. Some people are writing that because all those bonds deposited in the Collectorate have been lost, they were told they could not have the loans.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna : I am only concerned with the documents relating to the Ministry of Rehabilitation. Nothing has been lost.

Boundary Disputes

*1060. **Shri Gidwani** : Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that he has sent a message to the Prime Minister of Pakistan refuting Pakistan's contention that the northern portion of the Rann of Kutch belongs to Pakistan and reiterating that the entire Rann irrevocably belongs to India?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) : Yes, Sir.

Shri Gidwani : Was any reply received from Pakistan and, if so, what was the nature of the reply?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) : There has been continuous correspondence on this issue, rather at long distances. A letter goes; a few months later the reply comes and there the matter is.

Shri Gidwani : Was there any reply to your letter? That is what I wanted to know.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : I think there was reply in the sense that this factor is mentioned in some other letter.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether there is any remedy to prevent Pakistan from printing its maps including this area as well as some other areas?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : I am not aware of any peaceful remedy except to point out the error of their ways.

Chitral

*1061. **Sardar Iqbal Singh** : Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the old records of political Department in Delhi and Regency record at Srinagar have shown Chitral and other principalities under the complete suzerainty of Kashmir Maharaja and Kashmir Government.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) : The records show that Jammu and Kashmir State exercised suzerainty over Chitral and the principalities in the Gilgit Agency.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether it is a fact that according to the Treaty of 1878, the Mehtar of Chitral had surrendered his defence and external affairs to the Ruler or Maharaja of Kashmir?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : That is one of the records; there are many others.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether it is a fact that when in 1895 Umra Khan invaded Chitral, it was the Ruler of Kashmir who had defended Chitral and not any others?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : The hon. Member is asking me a question of great detail. If I say 'yes', I am committed to every single detail that he says. I could not also answer detailed questions in this way, but there are many old records to show that the Kashmir State exercised suzerainty over Chitral.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know whether Government is aware of the fact that Chitral has been incorporated within West Pakistan and whether Government has taken any steps in this regard?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : I am not aware of its incorporation in that sense, but I believe that Chitral is mentioned in their new Constitution—in that sense, it is presumably meant to be incorporated. Except for pointing out again the wrongness of this, we can take no other step.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad : Is it a fact that the sponsors of the Pakhatoonistan Movement have included Chitral within the zone of Pakhtoonistan.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru : I do not know exactly what areas are supposed to be comprised in the Pakhtoonistan Movement. I believe it has been claimed by some that it is part of that, but no strict areas have been defined so far as I know.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad : What will be the attitude of the Government if attempt is made by some foreign power to snatch away Chitral from Pakistan?

Broadcasts for Scheduled Areas

*1064. **Shri Jaipal Singh** : Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) the special programmes, if any, broadcast for the Scheduled Areas;

(b) the qualifications of the personnel in charge of the programmes; and

(c) the languages in which the broadcasts are made?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) : (a) and (c). Special programmes arranged at a studio maintained for this purpose at Shillong are broadcast from Gauhati in *Garo* and *Khasi jaintia*. Items of special interest to Scheduled Tribes are included in the rural programmes in regional languages broadcast from all India Radio Stations which provide coverage for tribal areas. At present transmitters are being installed at Gauhati, Ranchi and Bhopal for giving special programmes to the tribal people in their own languages for the area in Assam and NEFA, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

(b) *Ad hoc* assignments are given to specialists for preparing such programmes. Arrangements for recruiting regular staff and also Producers who will prepare such programmes especially on a permanent basis are at present in hand.

Shri Jaipal Singh : May I know how many of the tribal languages are covered by this?

Dr. Keskar : The number of tribal dialects is so large that it will be very difficult for me to reply offhand. So, I will require notice.

Shri Jaipal Singh: In regard to part (b), may I know whether any tribals or Adibasis themselves are in charge of the programmes? If not, why not?

Dr. Keskar : As I said, this thing has been done up till now on an *ad hoc* basis. We have not got any permanent staff to look after this thing. For the Second Five Year Plan, as I indicated here, we have included units for special broadcasts for the tribal areas and then we will have such units established.

Shri Jaipal Singh : Whether it is on an *ad hoc* basis or not, I want to know whether there are any persons, Adibasis themselves, even on this *ad hoc* basis of recruitment?

Dr. Keskar : There will be.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know what would be the strength of the transmitter to be set up at Gauhati and whether it will be able to serve the NEFA area?

Dr. Keskar : The strength would be 10 KW Shortwave, and it will serve far beyond NEFA and Assam.

Field Publicity

*1065. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary** : Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile vans owned by the Department for carrying on Field Publicity;

(b) its distribution, State-wise;

(c) approximate number of days each van works in a month; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these vans keep standing at their headquarters for comparatively a larger number of days?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) : (a) and (b). A statement giving the number and distribution is laid on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 44].

(c) and (d). The Field Publicity Officers required to spend every month no less than 20 days outside the headquarters and save in very exceptional cases, as for example, bad weather or break down this requirement is uniformly followed in practice.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether Government sees these reports and check up whether these vans work for the purpose for which they are kept?

Dr. Keskar : Yes, Sir. We have got a number of checks. First of all, there is a superior officer who looks after these officers' work. Secondly, the Publicity Officers of the State Governments are also requested to keep in touch and follow the work that is being done by these officers. Over and above this, recently we have arranged that the stations of All India Radio also will keep in touch with the work that is being done by these officers.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary : May I know whether Government has seen reports that these vans are utilised more for carrying the families and friends of these officers than for going to the villages for propaganda work?

Dr. Keskar : It is difficult for me to generalise from any report that the hon. Member might have received. It does happen when we have got a very wide organisation covering the whole country that one or two complaints might have come; we have also received one or two complaints. But I would not like the hon. Member to generalise about this. If he has got any complaint regarding specific persons or area, I shall be very glad to look into it.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : May I know whether there is any proposal for the expansion of the field publicity work in the Second Five Year Plan, and if so, what will be the amount that will be spent and the additional strength that will be required?

Dr. Keskar : There is a proposal for expansion. I will not be able to give offhand the exact amount, but it is not very large because in this question of field publicity, we mainly rely on the network of the State Governments. Ours is only a complementary service. But I would certainly be able to give the hon. Member the exact Figure if he asks me.

Shri L. N. Mishra : May I know whether there is any proposal before the Government to depute such propaganda vans for some river valley projects also where work with public cooperation is being done? If so, may I know whether it is a fact that a demand was made from the people of the Kosi Project for these vans and it was not acceded to?

Dr. Keskar : The number of vans that we have got are so few that it is difficult for us to allocate such vans wherever they might be wanted. The demand is immense. The field publicity organisation is not, like the community projects organisation, a vast body with a large number of workers and equipment. If vans become available in large numbers, we shall be very glad to fulfil such demands as have been made by the Kosi Project.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : इन गाड़ियों का जो भिन्न-भिन्न राज्यों में वितरण हुआ है

वह किस सिद्धान्त पर हुआ है ? वहां की आबादी पर या और कोई सिद्धान्त पर ? और जिन राज्यों में गाड़ियों की कमी है क्या वहां पर और भेजे जाने की निकट भविष्य में संभावना है ?

डा० केसकर : गाड़ियों के वितरण के बारे में दो तीन असूल ध्यान में रखे गये हैं। पहली बात तो यह जैसा कि मैं ने पहले कहा कि हमारा मुख्य जो साधन है वह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट है। जहां स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का खुद का संगठन बहुत अच्छा है वहां हमने कम गाड़ियां रखी हैं, लेकिन जहां स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का संगठन अच्छा नहीं है और उनके पास वैन्स कम हैं या काम ठीक से नहीं कर रहे हैं वहां हमने ज्यादा मदद दी है। जैसा कि मैं ने कहा हमारा काम इस प्रचार कार्य में सहायक रूप से होता है, मुख्य तौर पर हम यह काम नहीं करते हैं, बल्कि उन से करवाते हैं।

No-war Declaration

*1067. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi** : Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the latest position of the offer made by India to Pakistan of a No-War Declaration?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) : The proposal of a No-War Declaration was first made by the Government of India in December 1949. The Government of Pakistan hold the view that all disputes must automatically be referred to arbitration when negotiation and mediation had failed. It is the view of the Government of India that while arbitration was not ruled out and might well be applied in certain cases, it could not be applied in all cases and that the method of peaceful settlement must vary according to the nature of the dispute, the stage of settlement reached in negotiations, the known points of difference etc.

Correspondence on this subject is still going on between the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan.

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : May I know what is the nature of this correspondence and how long will this continue?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) : The first proposal for a No-War Declaration was made on behalf of the Government of India, as has been stated, in 1949. Perhaps the House will be interested to know what this was. The text of the proposed joint declaration runs as follows:

> "The Government of India and the Government of Pakistan, being desirous of promoting friendship and goodwill between their peoples who have many common ties, hereby declare that they condemn resort to war for the settlement of any existing or future disputes between them. They further agree that the settlement of such disputes between them shall always be sought through recognised peaceful methods such as negotiation or by agreed reference to some appropriate international body recognised by both of them. It is their earnest hope, as well as their firm conviction, that the implementation of this declaration in the spirit which lies behind it will serve to maintain good relations between the two countries and advance the cause of world peace".

This was in 1949 and in answer the Pakistan Government stated—that is much too vague—that there must be automatic procedure so that matters may be referred to a tribunal for arbitration and decision in case mediation fails. In fact, it was suggested that a tribunal might be set up and among the subjects to be referred forthwith were the Kashmir dispute, the disputes outstanding between them such as Junagadh and the neighbouring States and the other matters. We pointed out that so far as we know this was not a procedure adopted by any State to refer every type of dispute that might arise-all kinds of disputes; no State, so far as we know, bound themselves down to arbitration on every kind of dispute that might arise; there might be arbitration, of course, there might be a reference to the Interenational World Court; there may be some references to the tribunal; we agree. But we cannot possibly bind overselves down to these courses. This correspondence has been going on. It started first in 1949-50; then there is a gap. Then it began in 1953-54. Then there is a gap. Then, in 1956 it has started again.

Rehabilitation of Meos

*1068. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that more than one lakh muslims specially Meos have been rehabilitated in India?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle) : Yes.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know how much money has been spent on the rehabilitation of these Meos and where there they happen to be settled?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle : Roughly about Rs. 17 lakhs have been spent in Rajasthan in Alwar and Bharatpur where a great majority of Meos are settled roughly about a lakh persons and about 35,000 persons in Gurgaon in Punjab.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know what are the major items of expenditure incurred in connection with the rehabilitation of Meos and whether land settlement forms a major part of this programme?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle : The major items are loans or agricultural loans, sinking of wells. In the case of rehabilitation of Meos, we have spent money for those D. Ps. who have been keeping the lands belonging to the Meos. They have been advanced both loans as well as grants. I do not quite follow the last question.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : May I know the number of Meos that have been settled in Gurgaon district of the Punjab State?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle : There are roughly about 220 families which have to be settled. I might adds here for the information of the hon. Member that the Punjab Government has promised that within the next two or three months these people will also be settled.

Sardar Iqbal Singh : When the lands of the refugees will be given to these Meos in Gurgaon district, may I know whether those refugees will be allotted land in some other district or will they only be given cash compensation?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle : No, Sir. In the case of lands which have already been occupied by the D. Ps. the Government of India have taken a decision that the Meos would only be given alternative holding and where it is not possible to give any lands in this way that I have mentioned then cash compensation will be given.

Sardar Hukam Singh : There was a news item in the papers that in order to facilitate the resettlement of Meos in this country some changes in our rehabilitation laws were contemplated. If there is any truth in this news item, what are those changes that are under contemplation?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle : Yes sir. We are making provision in our Compensation Act that where it is not possible to restore the original properties of both the Meos as well as Muslims, the Government may be in a position to give alternative properties or cash compensation. So far as evacuee Act is concerned, with regard to section 16, we are proposing to simplify the way in which these alternative holdings could be restored to the Muslims as well as Meos.

Ceiling on Land holdings

*1071. **Dr. Rama Rao** : Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government received any opinion of the Andhra Government regarding fixation of a ceiling on land holdings;

(b) whether Government have come to any firm decision about the advice to be given to the State Governments on the fixation of ceilings on land; and

(c) whether Government have received any reports of public speeches by the Chief Minister and the Agriculture Minister of Andhra, against fixing any ceiling on land holdings without a similar ceiling on properties of other classes of people?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recommendations on ceiling have been made in Chapter IX of the Second Five Year Plan.

(c) Government have seen press reports of public speeches by the Chief Minister and Agriculture Minister of Andhra.

Dr. Rama Rao : In reply to my question, the hon. Minister has been pleased to say that he has received the opinion of the Andhra Government. May I know the substance of that report?

Mr. Speaker : How many pages does that report contain?

Dr. Rama Rao : I want only the substance.

Shri S. N. Mishra : The opinions that were received in the Commission were not on the final recommendations contained in the second Five Year Plan. They were received as a part of the consultations regarding the formulation of land policy.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : May I know whether it is a fact that the Govrnment of U. P. have declined to just proceed with the laying down of ceiling on land?

Mr. Speaker : This question refers only to Andhra.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : Part (b) of the question refers to other State Governments also.

Mr. Speaker : Part (b) refers to Andhra Government.

Dr. Rama Rao : May I know whether the hon. Minister's attention has been drawn to the speech of the Chief Minister of Andhra in the Andhra Assembly recently, where he said that the Planning Commission's stand in the Second Plan was different from that in the First Plan and it was likely to undergo further changes, and if so, may I know what pressure the Government and the Planning Commission are bringing on the Andhra Government to put this recommendation about ceiling on land into practice?

Shri S. N. Mishra : As I have submitted, we have come across Press reports, but it would indeed be no quite correct for us to rely upon all those Press reports. The houae is seized of the Second Five Year Plan and after the views of the House have been expressed on this, I think then the State Governments would have an occasion to express their own views on this.

Mr. Speaker : Shri Shree Narayan Das may put his question.

Part (b) is an independent question.

Shri Shree Narayan Das : May I know whether it is a fact that the Government of U.P. have altogether declined to follow the direction or advice given by the Planning Commission with regard to the laying down of ceilings on holdings?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda) : There is no question of their altogether declining to carry out the declared policy adopted here. The question is of phasing of things to be done, phasing of programmes, and it may be that in certain places it may take more time than in others.

Some hon. Members *rose*—

Mr. Speaker : Now, we must have a debate on this matter when the discussion on the Second Five Year Plan is taken up. How many questions am I to allow on this matter?

Second Five Year Plan

*1072. **Shri Bhibhuti Mishra** : Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any constructive scheme to have public co-operation directly in executing the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the nature of the scheme?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra) : (a) and (b). The matter is under consideration.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि यह मामला कब तक विचाराधीन रहेगा?

श्री इया० नं० मिश्र : ज्यादा दिन इसमें नहीं लगेंगे क्योंकि हमने इसके लिये बजट में प्राविजन (उपबन्ध) कर दिया है। स्कीम बनने में तो कुछ समय लगता ही है।

श्री विभूति मिश्र : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि सरकार ने फर्स्ट फाइव इअर प्लैन (प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना) में जो अनुभव प्राप्त किया है, उसे देखते हुये सेकेंड फाइव इअर प्लैन (द्वितीय पंचवर्षीय योजना) में पब्लिक कोआपरेशन (जन सहयोग) के लिये क्या वह कुछ ज्यादा सुविधा प्रदान करेगी?

योजना तथा सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री (श्री नन्दा) : जी हां, यह बात सही है।

Shri Shree Narayan Das : May I know whether it is a fact that the directions given by the Planning Commission to the various State Governments with regard to framing of the Plan from village level upwards have not been carried out and therefore there is a reaction in the minds of the public because they were not consulted with regard to the framing of the Second Plan from the village panchayats upwards; and if so, may I know whether the Government is going to do anything to counteract this impression?

Shri Nanda : I do not agree that the assumption of the hon. Member is correct.

सेठ गोविन्द दास : जहां तक जनता के सहयोग का सम्बन्ध है, क्या भिन्न भिन्न राज्य सरकारों ने इस सम्बन्ध में कोई प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं, और यदि प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं तो वे प्रायः सब जगह एक से हैं या उन में कोई विशेष अन्तर है?

श्री नन्दा : अभी कोई खास योजनायें इस किस्म की नहीं आई हैं, अभी तो सामान्य नीति पर ही विचार हो रहा है।

Shri Raghavaiah : What sort of co-operation does the Government expect from sadhus? Is it through manual labour or through propaganda work?

Shri Nanda : As citizens of India they have to do their part in the best possible manner open to them.

Shri K. K. Basu : May I know whether the sadhus have been influenced to the effect that instead of fleecing money from their disciples that money should be utilised for national development works?

Shri Nanda : Yes, Sir. Whatever money is available in the country should be utilised for the best purpose to get the best results and not wasted in any way.

Central Sericulture Research Station, Berhampore

*1073. **Shri Sadhan Gupta** : Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to transfer the Central Sericulture Research Station at Berhampore in West Bengal to the Central Silk Board as one of its subordinate organisations; and

(b) if so, how the employees of the station are going to be affected by such transfer?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know whether the question of transferring the Sericulture Research Station to the Silk Board is under consideration?

Shri K. C. Reddy : No, Sir. As I have said already, there is no such proposal. At one stage there was a proposal to transfer it to the Central Silk Board. That was considered and that proposal has now been given up.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty : In 1953 the Government was pleased to state that the question of placing the Central Sericulture Research Station on a permanent basis was under consideration of the Government. May I know how far we have advanced towards finalising the question of permanency of the staff?

Shri K. C. Reddy : The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty : May I know how many more years will be needed for coming to a decision on the subject, which is under pendancy for the last 5 or 6 years.

Shri K. C. Reddy : I think, Sir, an early decision is possible.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know if Shri Nanjappa, the Chairman of the Silk Board, during his recent visit to the Station assured the staff that they would be made permanent soon and, if so, what is the basis of this assurance?

Shri K. C. Reddy : As I said, Sir, the matter is under active consideration of the Government and I may assure the hon. Member that a decision is very likely within the next few weeks.

Shri S. C. Samanta : May I know whether this question was discussed in the last meeting of the Central Silk Board and, if so, whether they contended to start another Central Research Institute?

Shri K. C. Reddy : No, Sir. There is no proposal at present to start any other Central Research Institute. There was a proposal to start one at Chennapatnam in Mysore and they are building an institute there, but I do not know if it is a Central Research Institute or a regional one.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : May I know up to what date the sanction to the Research Station has been extended now and how long it is going to be extended on a temporary basis?

Shri K. C. Reddy : This Station was established in 1943, I believe, in the first instance for a period of 4 years. Since then it is being extended on sanctions from year to year. As I have already indicated earlier, the question of making it permanent is under active consideration and a very early decision is possible.

Shri Sadhan Gupta : Is it possible that the sanction was only extended for a month this time—up to 30th June? What is the present position regarding the sanction?

Shri K. C. Reddy : I would like to have notice to answer that question.

Shri B. S. Murthy : Is there any plan to establish one centre in the agency area in Andhra?

Shri K. C. Reddy : So far as I know there is no such proposal.

पुनर्वास आवास निगम

*१०७४. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर** : क्या पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पुनर्वास आवास निगम ने २२ अप्रैल, १९५५ के बाद कीर्तिनगर में कोई विकास-कार्य किया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्योरा क्या है ?

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना) : (क) जी, हां ।

(ख) ब्योरा सभा-पटल पर रख दिया गया है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट ६, अनुबन्ध सं० ४५]

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि जिन लोगों ने पूरा पैसा भेज दिया है उनको अभी तक प्लाट्स का सेल डीड न मिलने का क्या कारण है ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : इस का कारण यह था कि जमीन के मुताल्लिक झगड़ा था । हमने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को चार या छः महीने हुये कहा था कि जमीन के टाइट्ल का फैसला जल्दी हो जाये ताकि जिन लोगों ने जमीन ली है उनको बता दिया जाये । लेकिन मुझे उसकी ठीक पोजीशन मालूम नहीं है । अगर सवाल पूछा जाये तो मैं दर्याफ्त कर सकता हूं ।

श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या मैं जान सकता हूं कि जो बसईदारापुर की जमीनें ऐक्वायर की गई थी उन के लिए अभी तक कारपोरेशन (निगम) की तरफ से पैसा न दिये जाने के क्या कारण है ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना : इस सवाल का इससे कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है, यह कीर्तिनगर के मुताल्लिक है ।

Rehabilitation Grants

*1075. **Shri Rishang Keishing** : Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that under the compensation scheme the claimants are paid compensation plus the Rehabilitation Grants;

(b) if, so, whether it is also a fact that it was announced by him in his inaugural speech on the Compensation Scheme to give suitable Rehabilitation Grant to non-claimants also; and

(c) whether Government have decided the principles which will govern the award of Rehabilitation Grants?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) Yes, claimants who have verified claims of value below Rs. 50,000/- are paid rehabilitation grant along with compensation.

(b) It is not clear which speech the Hon'ble member has in mind.

(c) Yes. Such grants are admissible as provided in the Displaced Persons (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Rules to late migrants and those who failed to file claims for some sufficient reason.

Shri Rishang Keishing : May I know what is the number of such non-claimants and what is the amount of grant given, and to how many persons has the grant been given?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna : It is not a question of non-claimants. Grants will be given to two specific categories as are stated in part (c) of my answer. Those who came late, that is, those who came to India somewhere after August, 1952, when the date had expired, and also those who failed to file their claims for sufficient reasons, have to produce documentary evidence now, if they want their claims to be considered. The number of such persons is about 40,000.

Shri Rishang Keishing : What does the Government propose to do about the refugees non-claimants who need to be rehabilitated but who cannot provide security or any asset for a loan?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna : The compensation scheme is meant for giving compensation to those displaced persons who had left property in West Pakistan. As regards those who did not file any claim, we have got the rehabilitation schemes for them. For the non-claimants, meaning thereby those persons who did not file any claim for property in West Pakistan, the Ministry has a number of schemes for giving them relief and loans.

Vamsadhara Project

*1077. **Shri Sanganna** : Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2697 on 30th March, 1956 in respect of the Vamsadhara River Project and state :

(a) whether any decision has been arrived at in the matter; and

(b) if so, what is it?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) and (b). A statement giving the information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 46].

Shri Sanganna : May I know what is the estimated cost of this project and the area of land that will be irrigated in each state ?

Shri Hathi : The area to be irrigated will be about 3,06,000 acres of land in Andhra and 7,000 acres in Orissa.

Shri Sanganna : As a result of this project, may I know whether the light railway lying by the side of this project will be affected?

Shri Hathi : The Project is under investigation and it would not be possible to say exactly what particular area and what particular railway line etc., would be affected.

Dr. Rama Rao : In view of the recently announced understanding between Andhra and Orissa Governments, do the Government contemplate giving further financial aid to the Andhra Government to carry on this project?

Shri Hathi : About Rs. 1 crore has been provided, but the project has yet to be investigated in detail, and there will not be any difficulty in going ahead with the investigation with the existing allotment.

Shri B. S. Murthy : When will the investigation be finalised and may I know whether, after finalisation, the project will immediately be taken on hand?

Shri Hathi : It is difficult to say actually when the investigation would be completed, but as soon as it is completed, the scheme will be undertaken for execution.

Shri Sarangadhar Das : May I know the area that would be submerged in the reservoir that will be formed for irrigation and so forth, and whether that area is distributed between the two States or whether it will lie only in one State? If the submerged area will be only in one State, may I know which is the State?

Shri Hathi : So far as the submersion of land by the Gotta reservoir is concerned both the State Governments have agreed that the Gotta reservoir will be so designed and worked out that the water level in Orissa will not exceed 157 R. L at any time and the submersion will be limited to 350 acres at the most. This is what both the States have agreed to.

Supply of Electricity to West Pakistan

*1078. **Shri Hem Raj** : Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state :

(a) the date up to which the Central Government has agreed to give electricity to West Pakistan Government; and

(b) the arrears which are realisable from West Pakistan Government for the last supply?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) The previous agreement for supply of power to West Pakistan from the Uhl River Hydro-Electric Scheme of Punjab (India) expired on 31-3-56. A proposal to renew the agreement for a further period of one year with effect from the 1st April, 1956 has recently been received from the Punjab (India) Government and the same is under consideration.

(b) None, Sir.

श्री हेमराज : मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जब भारतवर्ष में बिजली की कमी है और दिल्ली वगैरह से उसकी मांग की जा रही है और यहां पर कमी नजर आ रही है तो फिर पाकिस्तान को क्यों बिजली दी जा रही है ?

श्री हाथी : पंजाब गवर्नमेंट वैस्ट (पश्चिम) पाकिस्तान को बिजली देने की योजना तैयार करती है और यह प्रोपोजल (प्रस्ताव) करते समय वहां पर जितनी बिजली की मांग है उसके बारे में भी सोच लेती है और तब जा कर बिजली देने का निर्णय करती है । १९४८ में १५,००० किलोवाट बिजली दी जा रही थी, १९५१-५२ में इसे घटा कर ६,००० कर दिया गया और फिर ४,००० कर दिया गया है और मिनिमम (न्यूनतम) २,५०० किलोवाट बिजली हम देंगे ।

Sardar Iqbal Singh : In view of the fact that there is a great shortage of electricity in Punjab, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of termination of this agreement this year?

Shri Hathi : As I said, the Punjab Government's need for power has been taken into consideration. As I said earlier, in 1948, we were supplying 15,000 k. w., and that has now been reduced to 4,000 k. w. gradually, from year to year.

Sardar Hukam Singh : Should we, presume that the Punjab Government is supplying electricity to Pakistan only when there is surplus to our own requirements, or, may I take it that we have told Pakistan that we will be reducing the supply slowly so that ultimately the supply might be stopped altogether?

Shri Hathi : It is not a question of our surplus. We are at liberty not to supply, if we want. It depends upon the position in Punjab. It is not obligatory that we should supply electricity to them.

Repayment of Loans by Displaced Persons in Tripura

*1079. **Shri Dasaratha Deb :** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any appeal from the displaced persons of Tripura for granting them time to repay their loans, as notice of repayment has been served by Government to the parties;

(b) if so, the number of such petitions; and

(c) the steps taken so far in the matter?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) Yes.

(b) Petitions are received by the Sub-Divisional Officers of the State Government. The exact number is not readily available.

(c) In deserving cases loanees are given extension of time for repayment of loans.

Shri Dasaratha Deb : May I know the number of displaced persons who were compelled to sell their belongings or mortgage their lands for the repayment of the loan which was insisted upon by the Government?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna : I have no knowledge of what the hon. Member asserted. So far as my information goes, a few hundred notices which are called certificates were issued, but not even in one single case has any action been taken so far.

Shri B. K. Das : What categories of loan are involved in this matter?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna : They are the usual loans given for rehabilitation purposes—rural and urban—for putting up houses, starting small trades, etc. That is the general kind of loan which we give in the Eastern region.

Shri B. K. Das : May I have an idea as to the total amount involved?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna : I cannot answer this question off-hand.

Shri Dasaratha Deb : Do the Government consider the cancellation of loans in certain cases either partly or fully, even in deserving cases?

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna : There is no question of cancellation. Loans are given according to certain conditions, and the condition is that the loan should be repaid, I believe, within eight or ten years. The loans carry a certain rate of interest. The payments are on an equated basis, if you find that, in a deserving case, a man is doing his level best, but cannot repay his loan, then, extensions are invariably given. So, there is no question of any cancellation of loan at the present moment.

Mr. Speaker : Shri K. C. Sodhia.

Shri K. C. Sodhia : Question No. 1081.

Shri B. S. Murthy : The answer may be given in English also.

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

सूखी गोदी

*१०८१. **श्री खू० चं० सोधिया :** क्या उत्पादन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को विशाखापटनम् की सूखी गोदी का अग्रिम प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हो गया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर क्या निर्णय किया गया है ; और

(ग) सूखी गोदी के निर्माण के फलस्वरूप कितना लाभ होने का अनुमान है ?

उत्पादन मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री रा० गि० दुबे) : (क) तथा (ख). जी, हां। हिन्दुस्तान शिपयार्ड कम्पनी के डायरेक्टरों के बोर्ड ने रिपोर्ट पर विचार कर लिया है और उसमें शुष्क-नौस्थान (ड्राई-डाक) के रूपांकन तथा आकार सम्बन्धी की गई सिफारिश को स्वीकार कर लिया है। प्रोजेक्ट रिपोर्ट तथा बोर्ड की सिफारिश इस समय सरकार के विचाराधीन है।

(ग) लाभ जो प्राप्त होंगे, वे हैं :—

(१) विशाखापटनम् में बने जहाज, जिन्हें आजकल शुष्क-नौस्थान में मरम्मत के लिये कलकत्ता भेजा जाता है, उनकी मरम्मत विशाखापटनम् में ही की जा सकेगी। इसके परिणामस्वरूप शिपयार्ड को प्रति जहाज लगभग ४५,००० रुपये की बचत होगी। शुष्क-नौस्थान में

मरम्मत के लिये कलकत्ता या अन्य स्थानों को जहाज न भेजने से जिस समय (शिपडेस) की बचत होगी, उससे सब दृष्टियों से देश को लाभ होगा । शिपयार्ड को जहाजों की मरम्मत का काम भी अधिक मिलेगा, जिससे कुछ लाभ प्राप्त होगा । इस भांति राजकीय सहायता (सबसिडी) की मात्रा भी तदनुरूप कम हो जायेगी ।

(२) यह शुष्क-नौस्थान, भारतीय नौसेना के बड़े से बड़े जहाजों की मरम्मत के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है ।

(३) विशाखापटनम् में एक बड़े शुष्क-नौस्थान के होनेसे बन्दरगाह की सुविधायें बढ़ जायेंगी, तथा व्यापार और कमाई में वृद्धि होगी ।

(४) आपात-काल में शुष्क-नौस्थान को एक अतिरिक्त स्लिपवे के रूप में इस्तेमाल किया जा सकता है ।

Shri R. G. Dubey : Shall I read out the English answer also?

Mr. Speaker : It is a pretty long one; hon. Members may read it in the newspapers.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

D. D. T. Factory, Delhi

*1052. **Shri Dabhi :** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have considered the recommendations of the Estimates Committee, as contained in their 27th report relating to a member of the Board of Directors of the D. D. T. Factory, Delhi who also happens to be the Director of the Managing Agents of Messers D.C.M. Chemical Works Ltd.;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter; and

(c) whether Government will lay a copy of the agreement entered into with Messers D. C. M. Chemical Works Ltd. for the supply of raw materials to the D.D.T. Factory, Delhi on the Table of the Sabha?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey) : (a) and (b). The Government are considering the matter having in view the occasion of the retirement of the present Board of Directors immediately after the next annual general meeting of the Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.

(c) A copy of the agreement is available in the Library of the Lok Sabha.

Ganga Barrage Project

*1055. **Shri H. N. Mukerjee :** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state whether the Ganga Barrage project has been abandoned, so far at any rate as the Second Five Year Plan period is concerned?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : The Ganga Barrage Project is still in an investigation stage and the question of its inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan for otherwise will be decided after it has been fully investigated.

रूसी पुस्तकों का हिन्दी अनुवाद

*१०५६ {श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह : / श्री रा० प्र० गर्ग :

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सोवियत समाजवादी प्रजातन्त्र संघ की सरकार रूसी भाषा के उत्कृष्ट ग्रंथों का हिन्दी तथा अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं में अनुवाद कराने के लिये कुछ भारतीय विद्वानों को सेवायुक्त करना चाहती है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस प्रस्ताव के बारे में भारत सरकार की क्या राय है ?

वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री साबत अली खां) : (क) जी, हां ।

सोवियत समाजवादी जनतंत्र संघ की सरकार ने अपने साहित्य का हिन्दी, उर्दू, बंगाली, तामिल और तेलेगू में अनुवाद कराने के लिये ३८ अनुवादकों की सेवायें मांगी हैं ।

(ख) भारत सरकार ने सोवियत सरकार को, उनकी जरूरतों के मुताबिक योग्य व्यक्तियों के पाने में, सहायता देना स्वीकार कर लिया है ।

Eviction from Land in Travancore-Cochin State

*1062. **Shri A. K. Gopalan** : Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take immediate measures to ban all eviction from land in T. C. State till the legislature is elected and popular ministry is reinstated in the State ;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government have received Memorandum from the T. C. State Karehaka Sangham with regard to banning of evictions in the State ; and

(c) if answer to (b) be in the affirmative action taken on the Memorandum ?

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda) : (a) In Cochin area, tenants enjoy fixity of tenure and in Travancore area, their ejectment has been stayed under the Holdings (Stay of Execution) Proceedings Act, 1950.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure 47].

Hydrological Survey

*1063. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh** : Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to have hydrological survey of the rivérine tract of Assam ; and

(b) if so, when this survey is likely to be made ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The surveys are in progress.

Central Water and Power Research Institute, Poona

*1066. **Shri Jethalal Joshi** : Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state :

(a) the appreciable results of the working of Central Water and Power Research Institute, Poona ; and

(b) whether there is any scheme to expand the institute ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 48].

(b) Yes, Sir

Indians in West Africa

*1069. **Ch. Raghubir Singh** : Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India received a number of complaints from Indian employees in West Africa and Hong Kong regarding the treatment meted out to them by their employers ; and

(b) if so the steps taken by Government to do away with such treatment ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) : (a) Yes.

(b) A procedure has been introduced making it obligatory on the part of the employer to obtain a 'No Objection Certificate' from the Indian Missions in British West Africa and Hong Kong after satisfying the Mission concerned regarding the terms and conditions offered and after executing an agreement in the form approved by the Government of India. This agreement is thereafter registered in the Office of the Protector of Emigrants under the relevant provisions of the Indian Emigration Act.

Instructions have also been issued to the Passport issuing authorities in India and the Indian Missions abroad that they should not grant any passport facilities to skilled workers proceeding to British West Africa and Hong Kong unless they produce 'No Objection Certificates' issued by the respective Indian Missions.

The terms and conditions of service to be offered to the employees have been prescribed after personal discussions with the representatives of employers.

Delegation of Power Experts

*1070. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy**: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state :

(a) whether any delegation of Electric Power experts has been sent out recently ;

(b) the main purpose of this delegation ; and

(c) the names of the countries that will be visited by this delegation ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.[*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 49].

Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd.

*1076. **Shri Bheekha Bhai**: Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to refer to the answer given to Starred Question No. 33 on the 16th July, 1956 and state :

(a) whether in view of the non-workability of the agreement with Messrs Oerlikons Ltd. in respect of the production of lathes, mill-machines and other articles under the agreement, the Government propose to revise the agreement; and

(b) whether it is a fact that a delegation headed by the Deputy Minister has been sent for revising the agreement?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The Heads of Agreement entered into with the Oerlikon Machine Tool Works were found somewhat unworkable due to difference of opinion on capital participation, transfer of licence and delivery of specifications regarding machine tools to be manufactured, and the manner in which purchases were being made by the Oerlikon Machine Tool Works from other manufacturers in connection with this project. It has, therefore, been proposed to revise the Heads of the Agreement in consultation with the Oerlikon Machine Tool Works.

(b) Yes, Sir, to discuss and negotiate with Oerlikons proposals for a revised agreement.

कुटीर उद्योग

*१०८०. **श्रीमती अनुसूयाबाई बोरकर** : क्या उत्पादन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) कुटीर उद्योगों को विकसित करने के लिये हरिजनों को किस प्रकार की सुविधायें प्रदान की गई है ; और

(ख) क्या उनको ब्याज में किसी प्रकार की छूट दी जाती है ?

उत्पादन मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री रा० गि० डुबे) : (क) कुटीर उद्योग के विकास संबंधी योजनाओं की, जिन्हें राज्य सरकारें प्रवर्तित करती हैं, भारत सरकार अनुदानों तथा ऋणों द्वारा सहायता करती है। इन योजनाओं से परिगणित जातियों को तथा दूसरों को लाभ पहुंचता है। परमपरागत व्यवसाय होने के कारण, ग्राम्य-चर्म तथा चमड़ा पकाने के उद्योगों जैसे कुछ उद्योगों में लाभ मुख्यत: परिगणित जातियों को पहुंचता है। योजनाओं में प्रशिक्षण तथा अनुसंधान, उत्पादन तथा संगठन की प्रक्रिया में सुधार तथा उधार व विपणन- सुविधाओं का बन्धान होता है।

(ख) योजनाओं में बहुधा कारीगरों को बिना ब्याज के ऋण देने का बंधान होता है परन्तु उन दशाओं में जहां ब्याज लिया जाता है, सामान्यत: ब्याज में किसी प्रकार की छूट नहीं दी जाती।

Import of Copra and Cocoanut Oil

*1082. **Shri Achuthan**: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of copra and cocoanut oil imported in the years 1954, 1955 and first half of 1956 ;

(b) the rate of tariff or import duties levied on these commodities in these years ;

(c) the total amount realised in each year out of this tariff or import duty ; and

(d) the export duty, if any, imposed by the exporting countries on copra and cocoanut oil in each of these years?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a)

Year	*Copra* (Tons)	*Cocoanut Oil* (Gallons)
1954 .	62,125	58,05,000
1955 .	74,578	55,69,000
1956 . . (Jan.-April)	22,647	15,64,000

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 50].

(c) Separate statistics of revenue from import duty on copra and cocoanut oil are not recorded.

(d) A statement is laid on the Tabl of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 50].

Private Limited Companies

*1083. { **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:** **Shri Sinhasan Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take up the claims of private limited concerns for properties left in West Pakistan which had been duly verified by the Claims Officers, but which are not being entertained under the Displaced Persons (Compensations and Rehabilitation) Act, 1954 ; and

(b) if so, when ?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Delegation To U.N. General Assembly

*1084. **Shri Chattopadhyaya:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the delegation to the forthcoming Session of United Nations General Assembly has been finalised ; and

(b) if not, when the same is likely to be finalised ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The composition of the Delegation is shortly expected to be finalised.

All India Khadi Board

*1085. **Shri Dhusiya:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of money given as grants to the All India Khadi Board since it came into being ;

(b) whether the accounts are being audited ;

(c) whether the auditor ever made any special remarks in the audit reports; and

(d) if so, what are they ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) The amount utilised for development of Khadi and Village Industries through the All-India Khadi & Village Industries Board upto the end of March, 1956 is Rs. 10,03,02,608.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Audit reports are under detailed examination and in case there is anything special, this will be included in the Audit Report to be submitted to Parliament by the Comptroller & Auditor General.

(d) Does not arise.

Pig Iron

*1086. **Shri Shree Narayan Das:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand and supply position of pig iron in India has been considered and reviewed;

(b) if so, the latest position of such demand and supply ;

(c) whether efforts are being made to import pig iron from any country ;

(d) if so, the result of such efforts ;

(e) whether any pig iron was exported during 1955 or 1956 so far ;

(f) whether it is a fact that a crisis has developed in the foundry industry and the existing units are not working to the full capacity; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The demand is about 600,000 tons and availability both from indigenous production and from subsidised imports during 1956-57 is expected to be about 500,000 tons.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. About 150,000 tons of pig iron are expected to be imported during 1956-57.

(e) Yes, Sir; limited quantities of off grade pig iron which were not easily moving, were allowed for export early in 1955. Since, however, the foundries in the country started using all grades of pig iron, licensing for export of pig iron was stopped since February, 1955.

(f) and (g). No, Sir. Government are not aware of any crisis in Foundry industry. They are, however, aware that foundries are experiencing some difficulty in getting pig iron, due to general shortage in the country.

Buddha Jayanti

*1087. **Shri Biswa Nath Roy:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Chinese Government have informed the Government of India that about a lakh of Tibetan pilgrims are expected to visit Buddhist religious places in this country in connection with the *Buddha Jayanti* celebrat in the next few months ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): The Government of India have received no such communication from the Government of China. It is however possible that a considerable, number of pilgrims from Tibet will be visiting Buddhist shrines in India during the Buddha Jayanti celebrations.

Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

*1088. **Shri D. C. Sharma**; **Shri Kamath**; **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi**; **Shri Ram Krishan**; **Sardar Iqbal Singh**; **Sardar Akarpuri**; **Shri Raghunath Singh**; **Shri Bhakt Darshan**; **Shri S. C. Samanta**:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Committee appointed to enquire into the circumstances of the death of Shri Subhash Chandra Bose has submitted any report ; and

(b) if so, the nature of the report ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). Yes. The Committee submitted its report on 3rd August, 1956. The report is at present under examination of the Government.

Hindustan Antibiotics and Penicillin Factory, Pimpri

*1089. **Shri Dabhi**; **Shri Ram Krishan**:

Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the Sabha showing :

(a) which of the recommendations of the Estimates Committee, relating to the Hindustan Antibiotics and Penicillin Factory, Pimpri, as contained in their 27th Report, have since been accepted by Government ; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to implement these recommendations ?

The Minister of Production Shri K. C. Reddy: (a) and (d) The recommendations made by the Estimates Committee are being examined in consultation with the management of the Hindustan Antibiotics (Private) Limited, Pimpri. Information is being conveyed to the Estimates Committee in respect of acceptance of some of the recommendations of the Committee.

Carbon Black

*1090. **Shri Ram Krishan**; **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy**:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme for manufacture of Carbon Black in India during the Second Five Year Plan has been finalised ; and

(b) if so, its main features ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). The scheme is still under consideration.

Land Allotment to Displaced Agriculturists

*1091. **Sardar Iqbal Singh** : Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 328 on 29th February, 1956 regarding displaced agriculturist families of Punjab or of Punjabi extraction who had got their land claims registered under the East Punjab (Registration of land permanent Claims) Act, 1948 and had been made allotments in Ganganagar District of Rajasthan and state :

(a) the number of such allottees who have not been given permanent allotments in Ganganagar uptil now ; and

(b) the reasons therefor ?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

Jute Exports

*1092. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh** : Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the export earnings of Jute have declined considerably during 1955-56 ;

(b) if so, the percentage by which they have declined as compared to the export earnings for the year 1954-55; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to arrest this decline ?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) and (b). It is presumed that the question refers to jute goods. There has been a slight decline of about 3% in 1955-56 as compared to 1954-55.

(c) This decline is not due to any fall in the volume of exports which on the contrary was more in 1955-56 than in 1954-55, but on account of the abolition of the export duty, following the devaluation of her currency by Pakistan.

Beggary

*1093. **Shri Madiah Gowda:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated to liquidate beggary, by the Planning Commission;

(b) how they intend implementing the scheme during the Second Plan period;

(c) the amount of money allotted for the same; and

(d) whether any central aid has been given so far for any of the existing beggar homes?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To provide for the worst cases, Government of India have proposed to the States that, as far as possible, each State should have a home for 100 old, infirm, diseased or disabled beggars during second plan period at a suitable place within the State.

(c) The amount allotted for this scheme has not yet been finally decided. The financial arrangement proposed to be adopted in each case is that the Central Government should contribute during the Second Plan period half the recurring cost of each scheme, the other half as well as such non-recurring or capital outlay as may be necessary, being borne by the States themselves. The views of the various State Governments are awaited.

(d) No, Sir.

Indo-Pakistan Agreement on Shrines and Holy Places

*1094. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:**
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state whether the Joint Committee composed of the representatives of India and Pakistan to work out the details of implementation of the Agreement of 1953 on shrines and holy places has completed its preliminary work?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): No, Sir. The Indian Committee is still engaged on preliminary work relating to the preparation of lists of shrines. As soon as this is completed, a proposal for holding a meeting of the Joint Committee will be made to the Government of Pakistan.

बुद्ध जयन्ती

*१०९५. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह:**
श्री बी० चं० शर्मा:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या बुद्ध जयन्ती समारोह के अवसर पर आमंत्रित किये जाने वाले विदेशी प्रतिष्ठित व्यक्तियों के नामों की सूची को अब तक अन्तिम रूप दिया जा चुका है?

वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री साबत अली खां): लगभग १०० विदेशी विद्वानों और प्रसिद्ध बौद्धों को बुलाया जा रहा है। कुछ निमंत्रण भेजे जा चुके हैं, लेकिन पूरी सूची अभी तैयार नहीं हुई है।

Hindustan Housing Factory

*1096. **Pandit D. N. Tiwary:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state whether there has been any improvement in the working of the Hindustan Housing Factory after the termination of partnership with M/s. Basakha Singh Wallenborg Limited?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): Yes, Sir. The operating expenses of the factory have been reduced by approximately Rs. 1 lac per annum.

This judged against the volume of orders placed on the factory induces the hope that there is bound to be improvement in its financial position this year.

Adding and Calculating Machines

*1097. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the value of imports of labour-saving devices for office use such as Adding and Calculating machines etc. during the last 3 years separately;

(b) whether Government have taken into account the effect on employment of middle class people in commercial firms and Government offices; and

(c) whether Government will consider the question of banning the import of these machines at present into India?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (a) to (c). Precise statistics of the imports of adding and calculating machines are not available as these items are not separately listed. The use of these machines is not considered to be primarily as labour-saving machines but as machines which contribute to accuracy and efficiency in the maintenance of accounts and statistics. Government do not consider that the use of these machines will have any mal-effect on employment generally in an expanding economy and have no intention of banning their imports.

Rural Housing Experiments

***1098. Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of rural housing experiments taken up by the Central Government in certain parts of the country; and

(b) the scope and provision for expansion of the Scheme?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) The remodelling of Village Shamaspur, in Gurgaon National Extension Service Block, Gurgaon District (Punjab) is progressing satisfactorily. The development of a few more villages is under examination.

(b) A provision of Rs. 10 crores has been made in the Second Five Year Plan for the establishment of a number of pilot projects of village housing all over the country.

Tungabhadra Project

***1099. {Dr. Rama Rao: / Shri Mohana Rao:**

Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received any representation from the Andhra and/or Mysore Government for an enhancement of the allotment for the Tungabhadra High-Level Canal in Second Five Year Plan from Rs. 7 crores to at least Rs. 12 crores; and

(b) if so, whether the Planning Commission has considered this request and arrived at any decision?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) No Sir; the expenditure provision for this project in the Second Plan is however Rs. 5·89 crores only and not Rs. 7 crores.

(b) Does not arise.

राज्य बिजली बोर्ड

***११००. श्री अनिरुद्ध सिंह :** क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि विभिन्न राज्यों में राज्य बिजली बोर्डों के लिये भारत सरकार द्वारा कितनी वित्तीय सहायता मंजूर की जा चुकी है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत उपमंत्री (श्री हाथी) : केन्द्रीय सरकार 'क' तथा 'ख' भागों के राज्यों की बिजली बोर्डों के लिये कोई ऋण स्वीकृत नहीं करती । तथापि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने ब्याज पर ऋणों के रूप में देहली राज्य बिजली बोर्ड की सहायता दी है । 'ग' भाग के राज्यों में यही एक बोर्ड बना है । अब तक इस बोर्ड को ५,९५,५०,००० रुपये ऋण सहायता के रूप में दिये जा चुके हैं ।

D. V. C. Staff

***1101. Shri H. N. Mukherjee:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a statement made on the 8th July, 1956 at a Press Conference in Calcutta by the Chairman of the Damodar Valley Corporation to the effect that employees belonging to the categories of "work-charged" and "muster roll" are liable to discharge without notice, and that alternative employment cannot be assured to them;

(b) whether it is a fact that employees belonging to the said two categories constitute a large majority in the Damodar Valley Corporation staff;

(c) whether his attention has been drawn to strikes and other demonstrations held by Damodar Valley Corporation employees recently in protest against retren chment; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken in the matter in view of Government's assurance in last session in Parliament regarding alternative employment?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir.

(d) A statement giving the requisite nformation is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No 51].

पुनर्वास आवास निगम

*११०२. श्री नवल प्रभाकर : क्या पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने कि कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि पुनर्वास मंत्रालय द्वारा बनाये गये पुनर्वास आवास निगम ने दिल्ली विकास (अस्थायी) प्राधिकार की संशोधित कीर्तिनगर बस्ती योजना को अस्वीकार कर दिया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना) : (क) तथा (ख) . जी नहीं, रिहेबिलिटेशन हाऊसिंग कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ने देहली डेवेलपमेंट प्रोविज़नल) अथारिटी से प्रार्थना है कि कीर्तिनगर के नकशे में उनके द्वारा पेश की गई तबदीलियों पर वे फिर से विचार करें क्योंकि इस नकशे की मंजूरी टाऊन प्लेनर, चीफ इंजीनियर, सी० पी० डब्ल्यू० डी०, टाऊन प्लेनिंग सब-कमेटी, देहली डेवेलपमेंट सब-कमेटी और देहली इम्प्रूवमेंट ट्रस्ट पहिले दे चुके हैं । इस समय की गई कोई भी तबदीलियां उन व्यक्तियों के लिये काफी कठिनाइयां पैदा करेंगी जो इस बस्ती में प्लाट खरीद चुके हैं ।

अम्बर चर्खा प्रशिक्षण केन्द्र

*११०३. श्री विभूति मिश्र :
श्री कृष्ण चन्द्र :

क्या उत्पादन मंत्री रह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार विभिन्न राज्यों में अम्बर चर्खा प्रशिक्षण के अतिरिक्त केन्द्र खोलना चाहती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन केन्द्रों की संख्या कितनी है और वे कहां कहां खोले जायेंगे;

(ग) अब तक खोले गये केन्द्रों में कितने प्रशिक्षार्थियों को लिया जा चुका है ;

(घ) इन प्रशिक्षार्थियों के उचित प्रशिक्षण के लिये सरकार की ओर से क्या व्यवस्था की जा चुकी है ; और

(ङ) प्रशिक्षार्थियों को चुनने के लिये कौन से सिद्धान्त अपनाये जाते हैं ?

उत्पादन मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री रा० गे० डुबे) : (क) से (ङ) . सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और यथा समय सभा-पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Indian Cloth

*1104. Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:
Shri Asthana:
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:
Shri Deogam:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state how for the Textile Delegation sponsored by the Textiles Export Promotion Council, has been able to stimulate the demand for the Indian cloth in the countries they have so far visited?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): It is difficult to assess the results so early. Statistically the position has improved in the case of one of the countries visited by the delegation. It might even be said that but for these contracts the declining trend in our exports might have become more pronounced.

गवेषणा कार्यक्रम समिति

*११०५. श्री० खू० चं० खोडिया : क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) समाज कल्याण से सम्बद्ध उन गवेषणा विषयों की संख्या कितनी है जिन पर गवेषणा कार्यक्रम समिति द्वारा काम आरम्भ किया जा चुका है , और ये विषय किन-किन समस्यायों से सम्बद्ध थे;

(ख) गवेषणा के विषयों में लोक प्रशासन संबंधी कितने विषय थे ; और

(ग) कितनी समस्याओं पर गवेषणा की जाने वाली थी, और तब से कितनों पर गवेषणा पूरी की जा चुकी है और सरकार के पास उनकी रिपोर्ट पहुंच चुकी है ?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) The Research Programme Committee has sponsored seven research schemes relating to social welfare problems. One scheme relates to *ex*-criminal tribes in Delhi State, two to beggar problems in Delhi and Madras, two to the evaluation of cultural change in Jansar Bawar in South Malabar, one to social problems and welfare resources in Delhi State and one to the assessment of problems and programmes of intergroup relationship and scheduled castes.

(b) One Scheme only relating to District Administration in Bombay.

(c) Out of the seven schemes relating to social welfare problems, three have been completed and reports on them have been received. Remaining four are in progress. The scheme on District Administration in Bombay is also in progress.

Border Incident

*1106. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that about 300 armed Pakistani Civilians trespassed into the Indian Terriorty on the Assam Border in the Khasi-Jaintia Hills on the 31st July, 1956; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) On the 27th July, 1956, about 300 Pakistani nationals trespassed in 150 boats into the Tharia river in Khasi and Jaintia Hills District, within Indian territory, for collecting boulders.

(b) The Assam Police party, on patrol duty succeeded in arresting seven Pakistanis, and seized five boats.

A joint enquiry was held into the incident by Police Officers on either side. The matter is under investigation. Meanwhile a case for attempted murder and violation of the Passport Act has been registered against the arrested Pakistanis.

Petroleum and Allied Products

*1107. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) the off-take of petroleum and allied products per head State-wise; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken for the supply thereof in adequate quantity under the Second Five Year Plan?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) State-wise off-take figures are not readily available. The off-take figure for petroleum and allied products for the whole of India is, however estimated to be about 3 gallons per head per annum.

(b) A statement is placed on the Table of the Lok Sabha showing steps to be taken for the supply of petroleum and allied products under the Second Five Year Plan. [*See* Appendix VI, Annexure No. 52].

United Nations Charter

*1108. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting of the Committee to consider the question of convening a General Conference to review the United Nations Charter was held; and

(b) if so, whether any decision to convene a conference to review the Charter was taken?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) No.

(b) Does not airse.

Refugee Colonies in Steel Townships

*1109. **Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up refugee colonies in the new steel townships at Rourkela, Bhilai and Durgapur;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary steps have been taken to set up such colonies; and

(c) the number of refugees proposed to be housed there with gainful employment?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) It has been decided to set up a colony for 400 displaced persons at Rourkela. No schemes have so far been formulated for Bhilai and Durgapur.

(b) Sanction has been issued for the construction of 400 tenements at Rourkela.

(c) 400 at Rourkela.

लंका के प्रधान मंत्री की भारत यात्रा

*१११०. श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि क्या यह सच है कि लंका के प्रधान मंत्री आगामी नवम्बर के महिने में भारत जायेंगे ?

वैदेशिक कार्य मंत्री के सभा-सचिव (श्री सादत अली खां): बुद्ध जयन्ती समारोह की कार्यकारिणी समिति (वर्किंग कमेटी) के आनरेरी अध्यक्ष की हैसियत से प्रधान मंत्री ने श्री लंका के प्रधान मंत्री को निमंत्रण दिया है कि वे नवंबर, १९५६ में भारत में होने वाले बुद्ध जयन्ती-समारोह में भाग लें। निमंत्रण को स्वीकार करते हुए, श्री लंका के प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा है कि वे कुछ समारोहों में भाग लेने की कोशिश करेंगे।

Prime Minister's Visit to U. S. A.

*1111. **Dr. Rama Rao:**
Shri Mohana Rao:
Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has received a further invitation to visit the U.S.A.; and

(b) if so, whether any date has been finalised?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) and (b). The Prime Minister had accepted an invitation to visit the U. S. A. early in July 1956. Owing to the indisposition of the President of the U S.A., this visit was postponed. The President of the U.S.A. renewed the invitation for the visit at a later date. No date has yet been fixed for this visit.

पुनर्वास आवास निगम

*१११२. **श्री नवल प्रभाकर**: क्या पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार पुनर्वास आवास निगम को विघटित करना चाहती है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना): (क) तथा (ख). इस मामले पर विचार हो रहा है और अभी तक कोई आखिरी फैसला नहीं हुआ।

Plastic Industry

*1113. **Thakur Jugal Kishore Sinha:**
Shri Asthana:
Babu Ramnarayan Singh:
Shri Deogam:

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the plan for the development of raw materials for the production of plastic in the country?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): Licences under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act have been issued to several firms for the manufacture of the major raw materials needed for the plastic industry. It is expected that when these firms go into production the bulk of the major raw materials needed for this industry would be available.

Registration of Handlooms

*777. **Shri S. V. Ramaswamy**: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued a directive to the State Governments to enforce compulsory registration of handlooms;

(b) if so, what is the object;

(c) whether Government are aware that the handloom industry has grave apprehensions about this move as a prelude to increasing power looms and automatic looms in the process of eliminating the handlooms as recommended in the Kanungo Report;

(d) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a press report in the Madras Mail dated the 24th July, 1956, of the resolution passed at a Conference of Handloom interests convened by the Salem Town Congress Committee, condemning the Government's policy in respect of handlooms *vis-a-vis* the powerlooms;

(e) whether it is a fact that five members of the Central Handloom Board have submitted a written memorandum protesting against the Government's new textile policy, which is sought to be enforced; and

(f) whether the Government of India have taken a decision on the Kanungo Report?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): (a) Government of India have asked the State Governments to get the handlooms in their respective areas registered.

(b) The object is to obtain upto-date statistical information relating to handlooms.

(c) We have received some protests, but by and large weavers particularly in the co-operative sectors are helpful.

(d) Government have since seen this report.

(e) It is understood that the five peop referred to have issued a press statement.

(f) Attention is invited to the policy statement made in this House on the 20th July, 1956 which explains the decisions already reached by the Government on the recommendations of the Kanungo Report.

State Statistical Bureaux

653. Shri Ram Krishan: Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state the names of the States where Statistical Bureaux have been formed?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): In the following States Statistical Bureaux have been formed:—

Part 'A' States:
Assam
Bihar
Bombay
Madhya Pradesh
Madras
Orissa
Punjab
Uttar Pradesh
West Bengal

Part 'B' States:
Hyderabad
Madhya Bharat
Mysore
PEPSU
Rajasthan
Saurashtra
Travancore-Cochin

Part 'C' States:
Delhi
Himachal Pradesh
Vindhya Pradesh
Kutch
Tripura

Film Documentaries

654. Shri Bheekha Bhai: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some documentaries have been produced by the Films Division representing the colourful life of tribes;

(b) if so, the names of the tribes;

(c) whether Government propose to produce different films of different tribes; and

(d) if so, when?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Two films, including one dealing with Community projects in tribal areas, have been produced and a third on North-East Frontier Agency is under production. A long film on folk dances which is being made in colour will also include dances of tribal people.

(b) to (d). Production of documentaries showing the social and cultural aspects of tribal life as also of documentaries depicting advances and achievements in particular fields in different tribal areas receives due consideration as part of Films Division's regular programme every year.

Housing Loans for Displaced Persons

655. Shri Debendra Nath Sarma: Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of granting loans, for purchasing land and constructing houses, to the regfugees of Pandu and Gauhati in Assam; and

(b) if so, the total amount that might be granted for each family?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). A scheme for housing accommodation for 200 displaced persons at Gauhati is being prepared by the Government of Assam. For this purpose about 90 bighas of land has already been acquired by the State Government at a cost of Rs. 1·85 lakhs.

No such housing scheme for Pandu has so far been formulated by the State Government.

Scheduled Castes Refugees in Tripura

656. Shri Biren Dutt: Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Scheduled Castes refugees in Tripura;

(b) whether any special consideration is given to them while rehabilitating them alongwith all other refugees; and

(c) if so, the special facilities provided to them?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) No separate statistics are maintained for Scheduled Castes displaced persons who are treated at par with other displaced persons in the matter of rehabilitation benefits.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

Cashewnuts

657. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) what efforts have been made by Government in the First Five Year Plan period to find out new markets for cashewnuts and how far the efforts have succeeded; and

(b) whether a statement showing the details of export of cashewnuts to various countries for the years 1950-51 to 1955-56 will be laid on the Table of the Sabha?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) (1) Amongst commodities in the exports of which Indian Government trade representatives are asked to take an interest Cashewnut happens to be one;

(2) Samples of cashewnuts have been displayed at various international exhibitions abroad. Free samples have been distributed wherever considered necessary;

(3) An Export Promotion Council for cashewnuts has been set up.

As a result of these efforts, it has been possible to maintain our exports to traditional markets and to introduce cashewnuts into new markets such as France, Italy, Switzerland and very recently the U.S.S.R.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 53].

विस्थापित हरिजनों को वित्तीय सहायता

६५८. **श्री वाल्मीकी** : क्या पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५३-५४, १९५४-५५ और १९५५-५६ में कितने विस्थापित हरिजनों को कृषि के लिये वित्तीय सहायता दी गई ;

(ख) उनको सहायता के रूप में कितनी रकमें दी गई ;

(ग) वे कहां-कहां खेती कर रहे हैं ; और

(घ) किस राज्य को सब से अधिक रकम दी गई है ?

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना) : (क) से (घ). सहायता तथा पुनर्वास के मामले में हरिजन तथा गैर हरिजन शरणार्थियों में कोई भेद भाव नहीं किया जाता, इसलिये हरिजन शरणार्थियों को खेती आदि के लिये दी गई माली सहायता के अलग आंकड़े उपलब्ध नहीं हैं ।

विस्थापित हरिजन

६५९. **श्री वाल्मीकी** : क्या पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि गत आठ वर्षों में पंजाब और पेप्सू में कितने विस्थापित हरिजनों को खेती करने तथा बसने के लिये भूमि दी गई है ?

पुनर्वास मंत्री (श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना) : पंजाब ६,९५४ । पैप्सू ५१० ।

Diplomatic Relations

660. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the number of countries with whom India has established diplomatic relations during 1956 so far?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Five : Albania, Greece, Outer Mongolia, Cuba and Spain.

Indians in Ceylon

661. { Shri D. C. Sharma: Shri Bheekha Bhai: Shri Achuthan:

Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indian nationals in Ceylon repatriated during the year 1956 so far; and

(b) where they have been settled?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) According to the information available 3,649 persons were repatriated upto the 21st July, 1956.

(b) Most of these people hail from the Southern States of India and they have been resettling themselves in their home districts.

Goa

662. Shri Kamath: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the number, together with their names, of Indian nationals in prison or exile in Portugal or Portuguese colonies outside India?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Shri Dattatraya Atmaram Deshpande is the only Indian National at present in detention in Portugal. He was arrested in Goa in 1946 on grounds of complicity in certain incidents associated with political disturbances which took place in Goa in 1946 and was sentenced in 1949 to 28 years rigorous imprisonment. He was deported to Portugal in 1954.

There is at present no Indian national in prison or exile in the Portuguese Colonies outside India.

National Industrial Development Corporation

663. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the Sabha showing the progress made in regard to the projects undertaken by the National Industrial Development Corporation since its inception?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 54].

Automobiles

664. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the Sabha showing :

(a) the total number of automobiles imported into India during 1956-57 so far (i) on Government account and (ii) on private account;

(b) the total value of these imports under each head; and

(c) the names of the foreign countries from which they have been imported and the extent of import from each?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). Imports of automobiles on Government account and on private account are not recorded separately. The value of total imports of automobiles from different countries for April, 1956 is shown in the statement laid on the Table of the House [*See* Appendix—VI, annexure No 55]. The figures for the subsequent months in 1956-57 are not yet available.

Nilokheri and Rajpura Townships

665. { Sardar Iqbal Singh : Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount that has been spent to-date on the townships of Nilokheri and Rajpura (year-wise);

(b) the different purposes for which these expenses were incurred;

(c) the toal number of refugees that have been rehabilitated in Nilokheri and Rajpura so far;

(d) the names of the private industries that have been established in these townships so far; and

(e) the total number of persons that have been employed in these factories?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 56].

Community Radio Sets

666. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether villages with lower populations forming co-operatives and Panchayats in cooperation with other villages are entitled to receive Community receivers under the Scheme of providing radio sets to all village with a population of 1,000 or more;

(b) the number of radio sets so far purchased and distributed in various States under the Scheme; and

(c) whether there has been any reduction in the prices of radio sets?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, if the State Government makes recommendation to that effect. The criterion of a village having a population of 1,000 or more is merely a sort of guiding principle which it is not intended to follow strictly and which can be relaxed in such cases.

(b) 14,639. Steps have been taken so far for the supply of 10,452 more sets this year.

(c) Yes. The lowest price paid in 1954-55 was Rs. 140/- and it was reduced to Rs. 120/- in the year 1955-56.

पाकिस्तान को मुसलमानों का प्रव्रजन

६६७. **श्री रघुनाथ सिंह :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५४ से ले कर अब तक कितने मुसलमान आसाम से पाकिस्तान चले गये और कितने पाकिस्तान से वापस आये ; और

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि उनको उनकी सारी सम्पत्ति लौटा दी गई है ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक कार्य तथा वित्त मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू): (क) तथा (ख) अभी इसकी सूचना नहीं है। यह सूचना राज्य सरकार से मांगी गई है और मिलने पर सभा-पटल पर रख दी जायेगी।

Indians in Singapore

668. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians in Singapore; and

(b) the number of Indians out of them who have so far acquired the citizenship of Singapore?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) The estimated population of Indians and Pakistanis in Singapore as on 31st December, 1955 is 96,565.

(b) Nil. There is no Singapore citizenship law yet.

A. I. R. Jullundur

669. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state the number of new talents discovered by the A.I.R., Jullundur during 1954-55 and 1955-56?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): Stations of A.I.R. are always on the look out for new and younger artists to add to the variety of programmes. From amongst them some prove to be talented ones. It is difficult to call every artist a new talent. The number of new artists tried by A.I.R. Jullundur during 1954-55 and 1955-56 was 149 and 235 respectively.

Bhakra Reservoir

670. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) when the Bhakra reservoir will be completed;

(b) when the water will be stored first; and

(c) how the water will be shared for irrigation by the participating States?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) In the year 1959-60.

(b) Partial storage will be effected in the year 1958.

(c) Final agreement has not yet been entered into by the participating State-Governments regarding sharing of water. It has, however, been tentatively agreed to the sharing of water among the States of Punjab, Pepsu and Rajsthan in the ratio of 62·36%, 22·42% and 15·22% respectively.

Documentaries

671. Sardar Iqbal Singh: Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a list of documentary films produced during the period from the 1st January to the 30th June, 1956?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): A statement of documentaries produced by the Films Division is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 57].

Automobile Tyres and Tubes

672. Shri Biswanath Roy: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state whether any licences have been granted by Government for the import of automobile tyres and tubes from the Soviet Union?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): No licenses specifically from the U.S.S.R. have been issued, but the licenses issued for imports of tyres and tubes from Soft Currency Area except Union of South Africa are also valid for imports from U.S.S.R.

Indian Immigrants to Australia

673. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the annual quota allowed for Indians every year to go to Australia as immigrants; and

(b) the total number of Indian immigrants to Australia who were actually given visas from the 1st of July, 1954 to the 30th of June, 1955?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) and (b). Immigration of Indians to Australia is not permitted under the laws of Australia. The question of an annual quota therefore, does not arise.

Medium-sized Projects of Rajasthan

674. Shri Bheeka Bhai: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of medium-sized projects recommended by Rajasthan Government for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan district-wise;

(b) their estimates and estimated acreage to be irrigated; and

(c) the action taken on such recommendations?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 58].

Delhi State Electricity Board

675. Shri Bheeka Bhai: Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loans have been advanced to the Delhi State Electricity Board for the construction of quarters for their employees;

(b) if so, the amount and dates of loans advanced; and

(c) the number of quarters constructed for their employees?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 59].

Mining Industry Machines

676. Shri Madiah Gowda: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the probable cost of machines that will be required for the Mining Industry in India during the Second Five Year Plan;

(b) the extent to which such machines will be imported and locally manufactured; and

(c) the names of the firms in India which are engaged in manufacture of machines for the Mining Industry at present?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 60].

Pakistan High Commissioner's Office

677. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of staff employed by Pakistan in her High Commissioner's Office in India; and

(b) the facilities provided by the Government of India to them in addition to extra-territorial amenities?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a). There are 22 diplomatic officers and 589 members of the staff in the Pakistan High Commsion in New Delhi and its sub Missions at Calcutta, Jullundur, Bombay and Shillong.

(b) The staff employed in Pakistan High Commissioner's Office in New Delhi and its sub-Missions enjoy the same privileges and immunities as are accorded to other diplomatic missions in India.

Gramodyog Bhawan

678. Shri Dhusia: Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) the basic minimum pay and Dearness Allowance of a sales-man and clerk respectively in the *Gramodyog Bhawan*, Delhi

(b) whether it is a fact that every sales-man and clerk is required to work as apprentice; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that sometimes new persons are appointed as sales-men without any apprenticeship?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) The basic minimum pay for both the sales-man and the clerk is Rs. 60/- in the scale of Rs. 60-3-90-EB-5-140 plus an allowance of Rs. 25/-.

(b) Not necessarily.

(c) Yes—persons possessing previous experience of Khadi and Textile Industry generally are appointed directly whithout having to undergo any period of apprenticeship.

Cement

679. Shri Achuthan: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirements of cement in Travancore-Cochin State in the current financial year both for Government and public purposes;

(b) how much quantity has been allotted so far on each account; and

(c) who certifies priority in regard to public demands and the criterion therefor?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). Under the present system of cement allocations, the Central Government make only bulk quarterly allotments to each State on the basis of the estimated demands received from the State Governments and the estimated availability. Detailed distribution of these bulk allotments among the State Government Departments and the public and the settlement of priorities is done by the State Governments. The total estimated requirements of Travancore-Cochin State during 1956 is 145,000 tons and the total allotment made is 77,200 tons for the period January to Septmenber, 1956.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 544, DATED 28TH MARCH 1956.

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the statement correcting the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 544 on the 28th March, 1956.

Mr. Speaker: If it is a small statement, it must be read to the House.

Shri M. M. Shah: Yes, Sir. I will read it:

In part (f) of Unstarred Question No. 544, answered on the 28th March, 1956, Shri Gadilingana Gowd asked for the number of Co-operative Institutions which had applied for sole dealerships and how many of them had been appointed and on what terms. In the reply laid on the Table, it was stated that no Co-operative Institution had so far applied for sole dealership. Actually one Co-operative Institution had applied for sole dealership but was not appointed. I regret the inaccuracy that has crept into the answer and seek your permission to correct that answer by substituting the following:

> "One Co-operative Institution has so far applied for sole dealership but none has so far been appointed."

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 254 DATED 25th JULY, 1956

The Minister of Communications (Shri Jagjivan Ram): With your permission, Sir, I wish to correct the statement made on the 25th July, 1956, in reply to supplementaries exchanged on Shri M. S. Gurupadaswami's Starred Question No. 254 regarding the manufacture of Gliders. The statement was incorrect inasmuch as the requirements of Civil Aviation Department will be about 30 Gliders during the next 5 years and not 30 Gliders per annum.

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 14th August, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See Part I*)

12 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF REHABILITATION FINANCE ADMINISTRATION

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration for the half year ended the 31st December, 1955, under sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1948. [*Placed in Library. See* No. S-316/56]

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES OF COIR BOARD

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Half-Yearly Report on the activities of the Coir Board and the working of the Coir Industry Act for the period ending the 31st March, 1956 under sub-section (1) of section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953. [*Placed in Library. See* No. S-317/56]

INFORMAL MEMORANDUM CONTAINING OBSERVATIONS ON INDIAN ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND POLICIES BY WORLD BANK MISSION

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the informal Memorandum containing some observations on Indian Economic Problems and Policies by the World Bank Mission. [*See* Appendix VI, annexure No. 61].

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): It is a very important memorandum. We would like to have copies of it.

Mr. Speaker: If copies are available they may be placed in the Notice Office and these hon. Members who may want it may take it from there.

Shri K. K. Basu The hon. Minister can have it cyclostyled and give us copies.

Mr. Speaker: Will the hon. Minister be able to supply copies?

Shri M. C. Shah: We will look into it. If more copies are available, they will be distributed to hon. Members. Otherwise, we will place sufficient number of copies on the Table of the House and also in the Library.

*CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 544

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, 1956-57

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1956-57.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS, 1951-52

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1951-52.

*See Part I Debates, dated 14th August, 1956, Cols-1253-54.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, 1956-57 (TRAVANCORE-COCHIN)

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to present a statement showing Demands for Supplementary Grants for expenditure of the Travancore-Cochin State for 1956-57.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

FIFTY-EIGHT REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): I beg to present the Fifty-eighth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

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*CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 254

STATEMENT RE MEASURES FOR CHECKING FOODGRAIN PRICES

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): It is rather a long statement running to 5½ pages.

Mr. Speaker: He need not read the whole of it. He may give an abstract of it and place the statement on the Table.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I will read about two pages. Otherwise, I will have to make it extempore.

Mr. Speaker: Instead of reading two pages, he may give a summary of it.

Dr. P. S Deshmukh: I will place it on the Table of the House.

Mr. Speaker All right; let it be placed on the Table of the House. Copies will be circulated to hon. Members. [See Appendix VI, annexure No. 62].

ELECTRICITY (SUPPLY) AMENDMENT BILL, 1956

The Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda): I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri N. C. Kasliwal, Swami Ramanand Shastri, Shri Rup Narain, Shri Bishwa Nath Roy, Dr. M. C. Jatav-vir, Shri W. S. Kirolikar, Shri A. S. Damar, Shri Ahmed Mohiuddin, Shri G. H. Deshpande, Shri S. R. Rane, Shri Debendra Nath Sarma, Shri T. Sanganna, Shri Subodh Hasda, Shri A. Ibrahim, Shri L. N. Mishra, Shri Rajeswar Patel, Shri Naval Prabhakar, Shri K. G. Wodeyar, Shri N. P. Damodaran, Shri I. Eacharan, Shri Ranbir Singh Chaudhuri, Shri S. K. Kandasamy, Shri Bijoy Chandra Das, Shri Sadhan Chandra Gupta, Shri K. Kelappan, Shri Kandala Subrahmanyam, Shri N. C. Chatterjee, Shri Tulsidas Kilachand, Shri Benjamin Hansda and the Mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session, and that the number of persons whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the committee shall be five."

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): The hon. Minister said that the number of persons present necessary to constitute a meeting of the committee shall be 5. It must be wrong.

Shri Nanda: There is some mistake. It must be 15. But on my paper, the number mentioned is 5.

Mr. Speaker: I think the number of persons in order that there may be quorum is 5.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty (Basirhat): Generally, I think it is one-third of the total number of Members.

Shri B. S. Murthy (Eluru): I think this is one-third.

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*See Part I Debates, dated 14th August 1956, Cols.1254

Mr. Speaker: I will find out, and the correct number will be mentioned when I place the motion before the House.

Shri Nanda: Before I start explaining the principal clauses of this amending Bill, I think I should indicate the broad purpose of the changes which are sought to be introduced and the circumstances which are responsible for these proposals. It will be necessary for me to make a brief referrence to the background of this legislation. The basic Act which is intended to be modified is the Electricity Supply Act, 1948. Before that Act was passed in 1948, the only law on the subject was the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. This is still in force. This Act deals with the issue of licences, the requirements of safety and in a limited way the regulation of relations between licencees and the consumers.

Many Members of this House are familiar with the provisions of the 1948 Act, because they themselves took part in the making of it. The object of this 1948 Act is the rationalisation and development of production and supply of electricity. For carrying out the purposes of this Act, two major agencies are created: The Central Electricity Authority and the State Electricity Boards. In addition, the State itself has been assigned certain functions. The Central Electricity Authority is set up in order to develop a sound, adequate and uniform national power policy and also in a specific way to perform the functions of arbitration between licencees and the Government or the Board as the case may be. The Board is a much more important body. It has the general duty of promoting the coordinated development of the generation, supply and distribution of electricity within the State in the most efficient and economical manner with particular reference to such development in areas which are not being adequately served or are not being served at all at the time,....

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): Backward areas.

Shri Nanda:....that is the areas which have not had the proper benefit of power and also to prepare and carry out schemes to supply electricity. The Board is assisted by a State Electricity Council which advises the Board on major questions of policy and regarding major schemes there may also be local advisory committees. The Board discharges its obligations either by directly carrying out schemes for generation and supply or alternatively by purchasing the undertaking of licences and or by controlling and regulating the business of licencees. This control has two major aspects: power to issue directions for the achievement of maximum of economy and efficiency in the operation of the licencee stations and secondly regulating licencees' charges to consumers which may also require the constitution of a rating committee. It has also another kindred function in connection with the amortisation and tariff policies of local authorities. The Board can help to extend loans to licencees and the Board has further to co-ordinate the activities with any multi-purpose scheme in operation in the area. This is briefly the picture of the functions of the Board and how it has to operate.

The State on its part comes into the picture for several purposes. The State constitutes a State Electricity Council. The State may constitute local advisory committees and regarding any scheme estimated to result in a capital expenditure exceeding Rs. 50 lakhs, the Board must have prior consultation with the authority and if the latter's recommendations are not acceptable to the Board, then the Board must secure the consent of the State Government. The Board has to submit a financial statement to Government and the State may make subventions, advance loans, accord sanctions to borrowings by the Board and guarantee the Board's loans. This briefly is the background of the ex-

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isting law and it will now be easier to comprehend the import of the amendments which being sought to be introduced, but before that I might explain also in a few words the working of the existing Act.

Some of the provisions of this Act are being put to good and effective use. There has been slow progress in respect of some other provisions. The Central Electricity Authority has been acting as arbitrator wherever required. The portion of the Act which regulates the licencees' charges to the consumer on the basis of the Sixth Schedule has played a very useful part in stabilising the rates and in protecting the interests of the consumers. The central purpose of the Act, however, that is the creation of semi-autonomous boards for rationalising and developing the generation of power has been fulfilled only partially. The position has remained static for a long time but substantial advance has been made during the last year and a half. The provisions relating to the constitution of State Electricity Boards and advisory committes were required to be brought into force within a period of two years of the date of the passing of the Act. This period, however, could be extended by the Central Government. As most of the States could not establish Electricity Boards due to some financial, technical and administrative difficulties, the period for the constitution of the Boards had to be extended from time to time, and now this extended period is to expire on the 31st March, 1957. So far, the States of Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Saurashtra, Bombay and West Bengal have constituted Electricity Boards. All the remaining States except four have also agreed to set up Boards before the expiry of the extended period. The matter is being pursued with the Chief Ministers of these States and it is hoped that they would also agree to adopt this arrangement before long.

Now, how does the need for amending this Act arise? For a considerable period the question of making improvements in the Act has been under consideration. The call for these changes has come from three directions. The States have been insisting upon the Central Government to introduce certain modifications in order to strengthen their hands *vis-a-vis* the Boards. The electricity undertakings, on the other hand, through their Federation, have been pleading for the redress of what, according to them, are their grievances in certain matters. And thirdly, the working of the Act has itself disclosed a number of anomalies and loop-holes which it is intended to remove through this Bill.

This process of consideration has taken a fairly long time. A draft Bill was prepared and circulated to all the State Governments and the Federation of Electricity Undertakings of India in 1951. Comments were received and they were examined in consultation with the Central Water and Power Commission, and fresh draft Bill was prepared in the light of the criticism received. This Bill was again circulated to all the States and to the other bodies concerned and their opinions were received, and in the light of all these suggestions fresh discussion of the provisions occurred at an inter-State conference in February, 1955. The representatives of the Federation of Electricity Undertakings of India were also given an opportunity to be heard. The Bill presented to the House is largely based on the decisions taken at this conference and in the course of these deliberations.

I have mentioned three sources from which the amendments have been derived. I shall briefly explain the proposals under each head. Firstly the State Governments. They were very keen that the Act should be amended to enable them to exercise a larger measure of control over the activities of the State Electricity Boards in matters of policy. It was recognised that such powers were desirable in the interests of smooth ad-

ministration and to enable the State Governments to discharge their responsibilities adequately. It is therefore proposed to vest the State Governments with powers analogous to those exercisable by the Central Government over the Damodar Valley Corporation. These provisions would empower the State Governments to issue directions to the Boards in matters of policy and to remove the entire Board if it refuses or fails to comply with certain directions. It is also intended to lay down that the appointment of the Secretary of the Board shall be subject to the approval of the State Government. With the same end in view provision has been made in the amending Bill requiring the Boards to consult the State Governments in the preparation of schemes costing over Rs. 10 lakhs. Hitherto such consultation was not necessary. The power to direct the amortisation and tariff policies of local authority licencees is now vested in the State Electricity Boards exclusively, but in the amending Bill it is proposed that the Boards should exercise this power subject to the approval of the State Governments.

This is one part of the amendments, and I mentioned three. The second is that which relates to the licencees themselves. The private sector of industry, since early 1951, has been persistently requesting for an increase in the standard rate of reasonable return from five per cent to six per cent, on the plea of difficulty in securing the capital required for the development of the industry. In 1948, when the principal Act was passed, the bank rate was three per cent, and the standard rate was fixed at five per cent, that is to say, there was a margin of two per cent. It has been felt that due to the increase in the bank rate from three to three and a half per cent since 1951, an increase in the standard rate by half a per cent is justifiable, and this would be in conformity with the original intentions. With a view to securing an automatic adjustment of the standard rate in response to the changes in the money market, it is proposed to link it with the bank rate and fix it at two per cent above the latter.

There is another provision made in connection with the licensees, which I have to explain. Under the provisions of section 8 of the Finance Act, 1955, section 10 (2) of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, was amended, to provide for a deduction called the development rebate equal to 25 per cent of the actual cost of new plant and machinery installed after the 31st March 1954, for the purpose of computation of taxable profits. The effect of the allowance is to reduce the taxable profits of an assessee. The electricity supply industry can avail of the benefits of this rebate, only if the licensees have been permitted by the amendment to the Act to pool the difference between the amount which would have been payable, if the development rebate had not been granted, and that actually paid after making allowance for the development, rebate, into a reserve, and to utilise these accumulations for development purposes. Otherwise, this will disappear in a reduction in the rates. It is, therefore, proposed to amend the Act to provide for the creation of this development reserve and permit the licensees to utilise it for expansion of their supply and distribution systems. The licensees, however, would not be permitted to increase their return, that is, to earn the reasonable return on the assets financed from the this reserve. It is also provided that the balance in the reserve as well as the assets formed out of it may be handed over to the purchaser without any compensation, in the event of the undertaking changing hands. I have dealt so far with two aspects of the amendments.

The third relates to the changes which have become necessary on account of the deficiencies that have been revealed or disclosed in the course of the working of this Act. Some of these deficiencies and loopholes relate to the regulation of the financial operations of licensees, which led to abuses by certain licensees to

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the detriment of the interests of the consumers in the past. I shall enumerate in the order of importance, the relevant provisions, which, at the moment, give rise to this sort of abuse or exploitation, and to the enlarging of the profits of the licensees at the expense of the consumers.

The first is the charging by the licensees of managing agent's remuneration and office allowance, in addition to the pay of a managing director or manager employed. The second is charging interest on loans and debentures, as an item of operating expenditure, in addition to earning reasonable return thereon, resulting in a double return for the licensees on this investment. Similarly, they are earning reasonable return on amounts invested out of the depreciation reserve, outside the business of electricity supply, in addition to the earning of interest or devidends thereon. This also means a double return. Further, there is an earning by the licensees of reasonable return on security deposits of the consumers and assets financed out of the tariffs and dividends control reserve, created out of the consumers' money. It is proposed to provide for reduction of rates for licensees, in case their clear profits exceed the amount of reasonable return by 15 per cent. Hitherto, if hon. Members would refer to the Act, they will find, that this figure has been 30 per cent. This 30 per cent is being reduced to 15 per cent. This provision refers to the position of the licensees in relation to the consumers.

Some amendment is also required in relation to the boards in order to improve and strengthen their positions. Under the existing provisions of the Act, interest-free loans granted to the boards by the State Governments are repayable out of the revenues. In the case, however, of electricity supply licensees, loans are not repayable out of the revenues but are redeemed by raising fresh share capital. Thus, the State Electricity Board is burdened with heavier financial responsibility than the licensees. So, with a view to reducing the capital liabilities of the board and enabling it to supply electricity at competitive rates, it is proposed to delete the provision relating to the redemption of loans out of revenues; such loans would then be treated on the same footing as interest-bearing loans, and will not be repayable in this form. Provision is also proposed to be made to enable the State Electricity Board to repay the loans borrowed from sources other than the State Governments, out of the accumulations in the depreciation reserve, instead of out of the revenues.

Another change has been made, which is of considerable importance. The accounts of the boards, under the existing provisions, are to be audited by a person qualified to act as auditor under the Indian Companies Act. In view, however, of the fact that the bulk of the finances of the boards are provided by the State Governments, control over the financial operations of the boards is proposed to be tightened, by subjecting them to the audit of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

I have now to deal with one more aspect of this amending Bill, and that is in regard to the economic consequence of these changes. I have heard hon. Members say that there is going to be an increase in the standard rate for earning the reasonable return. The question then arises as to what its implications are, so far as the consumers are concerned.

Shri Sinhasan Singh (Gorakhpur Distt.—South): I could not follow what the Minister said.

Shri Nanda: I have explained that the tariff rates or the rates for the consumers are, under the present Act, based on a certain calculation of the capital base and on that a certain reasonable return which is to be charged, say, five per cent. Rates have

to be so framed that this does not exceed five per cent, except that there is now this change, namely the margin of 30 per cent in the old Act is now reduced to 15 per cent. If there is an excess to the extent of 15 per cent, it has been shown how it is to be used. Now, the new position that is being created is that the return of 5 per cent will become 5½ per cent. That is so, because when the Act was passed, the bank rate was at three per cent, and the reasonable return was five per cent, and there was a difference of two per cent, but now that the bank rate stands at 3½ per cent, it stands to reason that the reasonable return may be 5½ per cent. But actually, the language now used in this Bill is in different terms. It makes it a kind of automatic adjustment with any fluctuations in the bank rate; that is to say, the difference of two per cent is going to be maintained. That makes things smoother.

But as I said, the question would still arise as to what it means for the consumers of power. How much more are they going to pay, because of this increase of half a per cent? I am in a position to inform hon. Members that actually, the outcome of this change is going to be for the benefit of the consumers and not against them.

On the whole, there is going to be a substantial reduction, and not an increase. Now, the question will be asked, how, when we are giving more on the hand, it is going to lead to a reduction in the rates charged by them. The explanation is contained in what I stated earlier, namely that we are removing certain anomalies that were present, whereby the licensees were able to charge interest on debentures and loans on the one side, and at the same time include these loans in the definition of capital base and thus earn five per cent on them. This has now been discovered, and therefore, this is being taken out. Therefore, a very considerable benefit will arise to the consumer, because he will not be liable to pay this double charge, but he will have to pay only once.

There are certain other changes of the same kind which I have mentioned. I won't take the time of hon. Members to repeat them, but when we come to the clauses, it will be possible to explain them at fuller length. Since they are now being abolished and a more rational scheme is now going to be enforced, it will be possible to see what the net result of these changes is going to be, that is, half per cent increase on the side and these deductions on the other side.

With a view to ascertaining the effect of the amendments incorporated in the Bill on the rates of supply of private licencees, the statements of statutory accounts of 290 licensees were examined and it was found that the maximum profit permissible under the Bill would be lower than permissible under the Act in the case of 287 undertakings; only in the case of 3 undertakings, the maximum permissible profit would be higher under the Bill than under the Act. Further, if all the licensees were, hypothetically, to charge such rate of supply as would enable them to earn the maximum clear profit under the provisions of the Act and of the Bill, that is, comparing the two, the average rate of supply under the Bill would be 5·23 per cent lower than payable under the Act. That is the net result.

However, the scrutiny of the aforementioned 290 accounts discloses that 131 undertakings actually earned clear profits up to the maximum permissibles return; 72 undertakings earned profits which were less than the permissible return and 87 undertakings worked at a loss—this was the actual picture of these 159 (72 plus 87) companies. They could not earn the maximum permissible profits even under the existing provisions of the Act.

The inference, therefore, is that their business conditions were such as would not permit them to enhance their rate of supply to secure the maximum clear profit permissible under the Act. The question of their increasing the rates of supply with a view to earning even a higher return,

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therefore, does not arise in actual practice. The accounts of the remaining 131 undertakings indicate that to earn the permissible return of 2 per cent above the bank rate under the Bill, 7 undertakings would have to increase their rate of supply by an average of 4.25 per cent and 93 undertakings would have to reduce their rates of supply by an average of 4·86 per cent—reducing cost of the other factors which I pointed out—and finally, the rates of 31 undertakings would remain unaffected.

The overall effect of the amendments incorporated in the Bill on the rates of supply of the undertakings of the first two categories above, would be a reduction of 3·86 per cent. This is the net effect of the various changes operating on one side or the other on the interest of the consumers.

Therefore, I think hon. Members would be pleased to see that while we are making a change in an upward direction for the purpose of the reasonable return to the licensees for good reasons, we are also able, at the same time, because of having discovered certain loopholes, which we are now removing, to see to it that the consumers' interests do not suffer, but that they benefit.

This is broadly the picture of the new Bill and of the Act if these amendments are accepted. I hope that the Motion will be accepted by the House.

Mr. Speaker: Hereafter I would like that the names of Members of the Select Committee be given in advance so that the list may be typed and circulated to hon. Members. This is to enable any hon. Member who looks into the list to make a suggestion as to whether some Members have to be removed from list and the names of others added and so on. At any rate, at the last minute the list ought not to be handed over to me like this. I have not even got a copy with me. As regards the point aised earlier about the number required to constitute a sitting, it is 10.

Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri N. C. Kasliwal, Swami Ramanand Shastri, Shri Rup Narain, Shri Bishwa Nath Roy, Dr. M. C. Jatav-vir, Shri W. S. Kirolikar, Shri A. S. Damar, Shri Ahmed Mohiuddin, Shri G. H. Deshpande, Shri S. R. Rane, Shri Debendra Nath Sarmah, Shri T. Sanganna, Shri Subodh Hasda, Shri A. Ibrahim, Shri L. N. Mishra, Shri Rajeshwar Patel, Shri Naval Prabhakar, Shri K. G. Wodeyar, Shri N. P. Damodaran, Shri I. Eacharan, Shri Ranbir Singh Chaudhuri, Shri S. K. Kandasamy, Shri Bijoy Chandra Das, Shri Sadhan Chandra Gupta, Shri K. Kelappan, Shri Kandala Subrahmanyam, Shri N. C. Chatterjee, Shri Tulsidas Kilachand, Shri Benjamin Hansda and the Mover with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session."

The number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting under the rules shall be ten.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Electricity (Supply) Amendment Bill of 1956, is very important and it has not come a day too soon. As a matter of fact, you know that Shri Sadhan Gupta and I had already moved for certain amendments to this Act affecting the workers. It is good that an all-comprehensive amending Bill has been brought forward, because electric power is one of the basic things which are necessary for the industrialisation of our country; as a matter of fact, it is needed for all development. It is needed for the small-scale and cottage industries where we are turning over more and more to the utilisation of power. Then there are our

own State projects and irrigation projects and other projects which require an increasing amount of power; so also is the general industrial development of the country.

As a matter of fact, I am also reminded of the early days when the Soviet Power came into being. At that time, Comrade Lenin had said that Communism actually meant Soviet power plus electricity. Electricity is such an important thing. Therefore, I am very glad that this Bill has made the State, that is, the State Governments and the Central Government, responsible to a large extent for shaping the policies regarding electricity and power as well as for seeing that along with industrialisation, the consumers as well as the workers get some benefit out of it.

During the last few years, the State has entered more and more into this field. As a matter of fact, there is the D.V.C., there is Bokaro which is generating power, there is Bhakra-Nangal. More and more, the State has come into its own in this important sector. Therefore, it is all in the fitness of things that the public sector must have a predominating voice in this.

As a matter of fact, Shri Nanda has given a sort of general idea about the 290 concerns which they have looked into. I come from the city of Calcutta where we know the working of one of the biggest monopolies in electricity, the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation—one of the biggest British monopolies in our country. There, we have seen one of the reasons why electricity is neither cheap nor is utilised for the national good. It does not go into sectors which does not give a quick return. It is this private profit idea which has actually held back the development of electricity.

Therefore, I feel that this is a very important Bill. I hope that the Select Committee will go into every clause of this Bill very carefully to see that the objectives which we have in view are really attained, and specially from the point of view of not allowing this important basic industry of electricity to be left as a source of private profit.

Now, coming to one very important point—I was rather disappointed that Shri Nanda did not pinpoint one of the most important ideas of computation—shall I say, novel idea—of profits in this industry. The biggest weakness in the Act which relates to this, is that it allows the computation of profits on the capital base and not on the paid-up capital. Generally, we know that profit is computed on the basis of the paid-up capital, on the assets, etc. Here, it is peculiar and it is based on capital base. The House should understand what this capital base is because if one goes into the fact as to how this capital base works out, one will understand that the amount of profit that is already given to this industry is something which is not given to any other industry.

I should have liked a differentiated approach to the big monopoly companies and to the smaller companies which are functioning under certain handicaps in smaller urban areas and in rural areas, where we want cheap electricity. Therefore, I feel that this Bill should have some sort of a differentiated approach to these various sectors to which we will have to give electric power. That is not there.

Mr. Speaker: Are there not different rates charged for lighting and pumping water for agricultural purposes?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: Yes, Sir. I am just trying to show that there are certain difficulties which are a great disadvantage to certain small companies. They are working in sectors where there is no possibility of quick return. In a city like Calcutta or Madras there are big units and big industries and the companies functioning there have got certain advantages. This method of computing will give them much quicker returns than the smaller companies which start working in small urban

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areas where there are not many consumers; nor are there big industrial units in large numbers. This should be looked in. I would not be able to make any specific recommendation but I feel that there should be a differentiated approach to these different sectors. Some more checks should have been put on the big monopolist concerns and certain advantages should have been given to the smaller companies which function under certain handicaps.

I now come again to the question of capital base. 'Reasonable return' under this Act is computed by the addition of the sum found by applying the standard rate—formerly five per cent but now it is increased by half per cent, which is the Reserve Bank rate—to the capital base and all investments other than from contingency and the unutilised depreciation fund which could not be used for the development of electricity undertakings plus an amount equal to half of one per cent on any loan of the board. These computations are complicated but I will show how exactly it works out in the case of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation.

The 'reasonable return' is five per cent of the capital base. What is the capital base? According to Schedule VI, it means the sum of the original cost on fixed assets, intangible assets, original cost of works in progress and all investments. Certain checks have been put here by this Bill and there is no doubt about it. It has limited the amount on account of working capital to the depreciated cost of the capital and several other limitations have been put. But it is very complicated. That is why it would have been better to base profit not on capital base but on paid-up capital.

'Clear profit' means the difference between the income and expenditure. The term 'income' includes rates, rentals, sale or repair of lamps, etc. Expenditure includes even such items as income-tax and other things. 'Reasonable return' is five per cent on the capital base *plus* the income derived from investments other than those made under paragraph I of the Sixth Schedule *plus* half of one per cent on loans advanced by the board.

Mr. Speaker: The present Bill wants to avoid the interest and the reasonable return both.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I come to that; I will come to the good points in this Bill. Certain checks have been put. But the very basis of computation should have been changed.

How does this reasonable return, according to the Calcutta Electricity Supply Act, work out in the case of the Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation? The capital base in the year 1950 was about £17 million. This was the figure submitted by that Corporation to the West Bengal Government. The paid-up capital at the close of that year was only £6 million. On a capital of £6 million, the capital base worked out to £17 million. You can now calculate on this capital base at five per cent, the standard rate. It will be rather a huge figure. That is why I feel that it is very important. In this particular case, it is three times the paid-up share capital of the company. So, this company can earn a clear profit after providing for taxation and reserves; it would be twenty per cent of the paid-up share capital invested by the shareholders. This is a most generous return. In this amendment, we should have had a much simpler formula of computation of profit, as in the case of most of the other companies. These complicated systems of calculation always enable the bigger companies to make so much more profit while the smaller ones will not make so much profit. Now the boards accounts will be coming under the Auditor-General. But, I still feel that it would have been better if we had the computation on the basis of the paid-up capital; it would have

been simpler. In the case of small companies, their capital base will be much smaller and will be almost the same as paid-up capital. I have got the views of some of the employees of bigger companies; they have sent me their views. For instance, the Salem-Erode Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. employees had sent me their views. If a company has big assets, naturally its capital base would be much bigger. In the case of small companies which have come into existence later, the capital base would be much smaller and so their returns would be much smaller. Therefore, weightage should have been given in favour of smaller companies. This is one of the biggest drawbacks of this measure. The desirability of computing profit on paid-up capital and not on capital base is one of foremost points which I wanted to emphasise.

There are certain changes and we welcome them. The Act of 1948 allowed a licensee to have a clear profit which would exceed reasonable return by thirty per cent. Now, it has been reduced to 15 per cent.

Mr. Speaker: It continues. 7·5 per cent of 30 per cent—that is, one-fourth is allowed. If it is 15 per cent, half of that is 7.5 per cent. How is it less?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That was exactly what I was going to point out. I want the hon. Minister to reply to this. I do not know how far I am correct. When I went into the details of this, it looks as though the consumers are the sufferers. The upper limit of clear profit is reduced by this Bill from 30 to 15 per cent but this is done actually at the cost of the consumer. By the 1948 Act, if the clear profit is above the reasonable return, one-third of such excess would be at the disposal of the undertaking, one-third would go towards the tariffs and dividends control reserve and one-third would go towards rebate to the consumer. Now, what is happening under this Bill? The rebate question will arise only if the clear profit is above 15 per cent of reasonable returns. It will arise only then. Even then the amount available might be found to be less than what was in the earlier Act. That is what I was feeling; I have not worked out the details.

Now the Company is also being given the right to carry it over for distribution to consumers in future It sounds innocent enough. But I would like to show its pernicious effects. What happened because of this carrying over in the case of the Calcutta Electricity Corporation? The West Bengal Government permitted the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation to use excess profits from 1949-52 in financing capital extension programmes subject to a gradual repayment to a special reserve to be created from clear profits. The Company has a big right to keep it in reserve to repay later on. What did this Company do? In 1950, the Company made an excess profit of Rs. 255,000 over the reasonable return. The reasonable return was Rs. 888,000 or so and on top of that the excess profit was Rs. 255,000. What did this permission to use the excess profits for extension programmes mean? It meant keeping the profit which should have been used for the relief of the consumer away from benefiting them first. Then, secondly, it meant immediate inflation of the capital base; because the capital base itself became inflated, it in turn meant more clear profits for the company. The licence of the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation is going to lapse in 1970 and there may be a chance of nationalising the company. Then, the calculations of the compensation will also be highly inflated. I say that one has to look into this thing very carefully if you allow them to keep the amount which should go as rebate to the consumers, to be repaid later on. This may be utilised for inflating capital which will mean higher clear profits which will increase the profit-motive of the big companies. That is why I feel that the whole calculation has to be

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gone into very carefully by the Select Committee.

There are certain very good points in this Bill. Certain checks and balances have been introduced in this Bill against old and big companies artificially inflating their figures. In the distribution of revenues one good thing has been introduced and that is, the intangible assets of the company like goodwill etc. have been limited to the extent of the actual value appropriated in the year for that purpose. You cannot allow that to be vague. It should be limited to the extent that is provided for that very purpose in that year. That is a good thing; and this limitation will reduce the capital base.

Then again, the question of contribution to the general reserves is reduced from 1 per cent of the original cost of the assets to ½ per cent of the original cost. This also, I think, is a good limitation. Depreciation reserve has also been reduced. We used to find huge amounts used as depreciation reserve by big companies like the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation. By the 1948 Act, the depreciation reserve was allowed on the scale laid down in the table in the Seventh Schedule. It was such amount as it would be if made annually throughout the prescribed period and accumulated at compound interest at the rate of 4 per cent per annum subject to a limit of 90 per cent of the original costs of assets. By the 1956 Bill, you are reducing 4 per cent to 3 per cent. These are small points.

But what is good in this. Depreciation Reserve, over and above the above calculation, is allowed at interest at the rate of 3 per cent per annum on sums at the credit of the Depreciation Reserve. This overall-blank 3 per cent has been abolished. That, I think, is a good thing and it limits the amount of inflated reserves which are kept there. Otherwise, that in itself would go to increase the capital base in an unjustified manner. Since depreciation reserve has top priority in the liabilities of the Board, this limitation is good because the rebate is made a liability on the revenues of the Board and it gives a chance to the consumer. I admit that they have specified after what point the rebate comes in. But, in any case, payment of rebate to consumers is an item of liability on the revenues of the Board and that is an important and welcome step.

I am glad that certain impetus has been given to the development of electricity. As I said before, the production of electricity has been guided by the profit motive rather than the needs of the country, especially the small-scale and village industries. Recently, I went to Ludhiana in Punjab and I was surprised and amazed at the tremendous initiative of the small-scale industrialists. They invest Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 and start making spare parts, spare motor parts, cycle parts, sewing machine parts and even machine tool machinery. But the biggest difficulty is that they do not get power. They have started industrial estates, where you have all the industries put together, but what is the good unless they are able to get electricity? It is not a very big city with a lot of people wanting this power and yet there is great shortage of power. This impetus to the development of industry without profit motive should be there and it is an important thing to note.

I think there is one thing that has to be taken into consideration. After seeing Bokaro, I think, it is important, the charges for utilising the unutilised capacity by the Board of transmission lines of licencees. Formerly, they were inflated by charging interest on the original cost. Even though these transmission lines had been put up 50 years ago, the entire capital expenditure would be taken into account in computing the charges which will be made for the utilisation of unutilised power. At

least in this Bill, the interest on the depreciated cost of the line will only be considered in future. I think the whole thing should be gone into more fully.

The other point which I want to say is this. I went to Bokharo and I say how the State is spending crores and crores of rupees on this fine electricity generating plant. I asked what was the cost of the bulk supply. I forget the figures but I was given an extraordinarily low figure for this bulk supply. I asked specifically what percentage of it is actually used by the village and dectntralised industries. I put this question on the floor of the House also. I am surprised to find that the bulk of it is today used by the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation, the Indian Iron and Steel Company, Burnpur, and even Tatas. It is these big monopolists that are taking the bulk supply. We should see that we are able to get this energy which we are generating at much expenditure to State without allowing for a large margin of profit to these middlemen, shall we say, who come in the form of big industries. We should see that at least a large portion of the energy which is produced by the State at these organisations like the Bokharo should go to the benefit of the small rural and village decentralised industries. This is what I felt and this is an aspect of the entire matter which has to be taken into consideration by the Select Committee. It is no doubt a technical matter, but I do think that our Minister and his big army of technicians will be able to explain these to the members of the Select Committee.

There is a new idea that has emerged in this Bill, the idea of a Development Fund. It is good that the development rebate which has been allowed today under the Income-tax Act is going to come as an investment for the purpose of the development of electricity itself. That is a good thing. I also appreciate that in the computation of the capital base, some change has been made. Formerly, all depreciation funds could be utilised for investment in any other concern, other than that of the Electricity Supply, except those of fixed or intangible assets. Beyond that, all money which was in the depreciation fund could be utilised for investment in any other concern. Now the Government or the Central Authority has to be satisfied that the needs of the development of electricity have been fulfilled, and only that which is in excess of that will go into the computation of the capital base. That, I think, is a good thing, and I hope that the State will guide the policy that has been laid down here, that the State will be the ultimate authority to guide the policy of how and where to develop, where to give certain rebates, where to give certain cheap rates, and where to give high rates, etc. If this is done, I hope that very good checks will be kept with a view to seeing that it will not allow profit to be the only motive for the development of electricity and that a good and fair share of power will be given to the village and small-scale industries to meet their needs of electricity.

1 P.M.

One or two other points and I will finish, and that is on the question of the Rating Committee. The other important factor in the electricity world is the consumer. The hon. Minister has already tried to assure us that in spite of the fact that half a per cent. has been increased in the standard rate, something like 3 86 per cent. reduction in rebate will be given. I will have to look into the details that he has given us, and I certainly hope that what he has promised us will come true. As far as the small-scale industries are concerned, the rebates should be much lower, even if it means subsidising.

The Rating Committee can change rates provided the licensee is guaranteed clear profit which together with sums in tariffs and dividends control reserve affords him a reasonable return. Again coming back to the question of reasonable return, I

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have tried to point out to the House that even now this should be gone into, that is, whether in such a basic industry as electricity we should allow the possibility of any high profits in spite of the limitations and checks, that have no doubt been put upon what existed before, in this Bill. I am glad that the tariffs and dividends reserve have been included in this clear profit, because until the clear profit exceeds 15 per cent. of reasonable return, there is no question of rebate. If in addition to the clear profit, the dividend control reserve and tariffs are included in this, the upper limit of reasonable return will be reached with lesser clear profit and there will be some chance of rebate or possibility of rebate being there.

Regarding the Rating Committee I would like to say that it is important that we have a certain definite attitude towards these Committees, Councils, towards these Boards, etc. I feel very disappointed that in the Bill nowhere do we find that the consumer's interests or the labour interests are actually represented on these Boards, nor on the Rating Committee, nor on the Councils, nor on the Advisory Committees, nor on any of the other committees that have been recommended in this Bill. I feel that this is an important thing because it is necessary for us to have the opinions of all sections who are closely connected with the use and supply of electricity. Therefore I feel that in these committees the interests of the consumer, the interests of labour, the interests of industry and the interests of Government should be represented so that an overall and comprehensive attitude towards the entire matter can be taken.

I welcome also the inclusion of bonus as an allowable item of expenditure, which was not there in the original Bill, in schedule VI. I am glad we have brought forward this particular thing as an amendment in a Private Member's Bill and the hon. Minister has included it here. I know that after the first judgment was given by the Bombay Labour Tribunal, later on another judgment was given whereby the earlier refusal to accept bouns as an allowable item of expenditure was reversed. But it is good that here we have included it in the item of expenditure. I think this is a good beginning, and if we can also utilise the experience and knowledge of the workers in fixing not only the rates, etc., but also in the development of the policies to be undertaken for the growth of this important sector of our industrial advancement, it would be a very good thing. When I visited Bokharo, I met many fine young men who were working there enthusiastically and with patriotism and who wanted that development of electricity should advance further. They had much more working knowledge of this intricate industry than many of us sitting here and talking about it—in fact we can learn much from them because they are the people who are working there and it is for them to tell us how to advance this industry, how to work it economically, where we should be able to effect economies, where we should invest, how to develop, etc. They know where the shoe pinches and, therefore, all these things should be got from them. I feel that their representation, their guidance, their help, their co-operation and their assistance should also be found in the various Boards and Committees that are set up.

With these few words I recommend that the Select Committee should go very carefully into this rather technical and rather difficult amending Bill, which actually affects the life of millions of our people who are today expecting electricity and power and modern methods of industrialisation for the development of our country and for the nation's prosperity in general.

श्री सिंहासन सिंह: यह विधेयक स्वागत योग्य है। यह ऐसे समय में आया है जब कि देश में चारों तरफ बिजली की मांग है और हमारे

जीवनस्तर का ऊंचा उठना बिजली के प्रयोग पर निर्भर है। आज हम जितनी अधिक मात्रा में बिजली का व्यवहार करेंगे उतनी ही मात्रा में हमारा जीवनस्तर ऊंचा उठने वाला है। ऐसी अवस्था में यह विधेयक, जिसका उद्देश्य यह है कि बिजली की मांग बढ़े और उसकी दर कम हो, स्वागत की चीज है। लेकिन हम मंत्री महोदय और आपके जरिये रेटिंग कमेटी (दर समिति) का ध्यान इस तरफ दिलाना चाहते हैं कि आज व्यवसायों की तरक्की बिजली के अधिक उत्पादन पर अवलम्बित है। लेकिन आज जो बिजली उपलब्ध है उसका दर इतना ज्यादा है कि लोग उसे लेने से गुरेज करते हैं। आज हालत यह है कि दिल्ली में बिजली का कोई और भाव है, गोरखपुर में अन्य भाव है, बिहार में कोई अन्य भाव है, हर प्रान्त में भिन्न भिन्न भाव है, जब कि बिजली का कंट्रोल केन्द्रीय सरकार के ही हाथ में है। ऐसी अवस्था में भिन्न भिन्न स्थानों में बिजली की दर में जितना कम अन्तर होगा उतना ही देश के लिए लाभ होगा। आज दिल्ली में बिजली का दर रोशनी और पंखे के लिए साढ़े तीन आना यूनिट है और पावर के लिए डेढ़ आना यूनिट। लेकिन गोरखपुर जैसे छोटे शहरों में और छोटे देहातों में इसका रेट आठ आना यूनिट है। कहीं ८ आने यूनिट और कहीं पर साढ़े ३ आने यूनिट। पावर का रेट वहां पर साढ़े ३ आने और ४ आने यूनिट है। आज खेती के काम के लिए जो बिजली दी जा रही है उसकी भी दर ६ आने यूनिट है। आज भी गोरखपुर के पूर्वी क्षेत्रों में सूखा पड़ा हुआ है। वहां पर नहरें हैं और बिजली के ट्यूबवैल्स (नल कूप) लगे हुए हैं लेकिन बिजली का भाव अधिक होने के कारण काश्तकार धान में पानी नहीं ले रहे हैं और बिजली इतनी महंगी पड़ती है कि पानी लेने पर धान हो भी जाये तो वह नहीं के बराबर होगा। पानी का रेट अधिक होने के कारण काश्तकार वहां पानी नहीं ले रहे हैं और पानी पड़ा हुआ है। पहले धान की खेती के लिए ४ आने यूनिट का भाव था लेकिन उसका लेविलिंग करके सबके लिए ६ आने फी यूनिट कर दिया। पानी क़रीब मौजूद है, नहरें पास हैं और खेत बिना पानी के सूख रहे हैं लेकिन भाव इतना महंगा है कि काश्तकार पानी नहीं ले रहे हैं। एक कहावत यहां पर पूरी तरह चरितार्थ हो रही है—"आव आव कर दे दिया पर—सराहने रखा पानी" वही हालत पानी का बिजली के रेट के अधिक होने के कारण काश्तकार सूखते हुए धान में पानी नहीं दे रहा है

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

परसों १६ तारीख को शायद हमारे कृषि मंत्री महोदय पूर्वी क्षेत्रों के बारे में कोई बयान देने वाले हैं जहां कि अकाल की सी स्थिति विद्यमान है। यह जो आपने विधेयक के सम्बन्ध में अपने भाषण में कहा कि हम इसके जरिए भाव में कमी करने जा रहे हैं, तो वह चीज बड़ी ही स्वागत योग्य है और मैं उसका स्वागत करता हूं। बिजली और पानी जितने ही सस्ते रेट पर मिले, उतना ही अच्छा है। मंत्री महोदय ने अंत में अपने भाषण के दौरान बतलाया कि इस विधेयक के पास होने का कुल परिणाम यह होगा कि ३·२५ फीसदी बिजली की दर में कमी हो जयेगी जिसका कि अर्थ यह हुआ कि १०० रुपये के बजाय अब ९७ रुपये या पौने ९७ रुपये के क़रीब देने पड़े करेंगे। अभी तक तो यह था कि ३० फीसदी रीजनेबुल रेट आफ प्राफिट (लाभ की उचित दर) के ऊपर ३० फीसदी से बेशी होने पर आप उसमें कमी कर सकते थे, उसको आपने मेहरबानी करके ३० के बजाय १५ कर दिया है अर्थात् १५ परसेंट के रीजनेबुल रेट आफ प्राफिट से ऊपर हो तो कम किया जाये लेकिन कितना कम किया जाये कंज्यूमर्स (उपभोक्ता) के रूप में उसका कोई रूप इसमें नहीं दिखलाया गया है।

मंत्री महोदय ने अपने भाषण में लाइसैंसीज (अनुज्ञप्तिधारी) के इस बिजली के हिसाब किताब में चल रहे लूपहोल्स (त्रुटियों) का भी जिक्र किया और किस तरह से इधर

(श्री सिंहासन सिंह)

उधर से रुपया जुटा कर और जोड़ तोड़ करके उस रुपये पर सूद भी लेते थे और मुनाफा और डिबेंचर्स (ऋणपत्रों) पर सूद भी लेते थे। अपने भाई भतीजों से कर्जा ले लेते हैं और उस पर सूद लेते हैं और सूद पर मुनाफा लेते हैं। मंत्री महोदय इस विधेयक के द्वारा इन तमाम लूपहोल्स को बंद करने की चेष्टा कर रहे हैं और जहां तक इस चेष्टा का सम्बन्ध है, वह स्वागत योग्य है और हमारा पूरा समर्थन उसके साथ है।

लेकिन इन छिद्रों को बंद करने के साथ ही साथ उनको नजर इस चीज पर भी जानी चाहिए कि अभी तक उन्होंने कितना मुनाफा किया है और आगे इसके बाद कितना करेंगे और स्पष्ट है कि जितना ही हम इधर ध्यान देंगे उतना ही हमारा और देश का कल्याण होगा। यह स्पष्ट बात है कि जितना ही कम बिजली का रेट होगा उतनी ही उसकी खपत ज्यादा होगी और जितनी बिजली की खपत अधिक होगी उतनी ही हमारी पैदावार ज्यादा होगी। अन्न की पैदावार हमारे देश में ४० फ़ीसदी (प्रतिशत) बढ़ाई जाने वाली है और ४० फीसदी अन्न की पैदावार तभी बढ़ेगी जब बिजली और पानी दोनों का समुचित उपयोग करने का काश्तकारों को मौका मिलेगा और समुचित उपयोग करने का मौक़ा तब ही मिलेगा जब उनकी पानी और बिजली की दर कम हो और बिजली और पानी की दर अधिक होने के कारण आप गोरखपुर और देवरिया में जाकर देख सकते हैं कि नलकूप होते हुए भी वहां काश्तकार पानी नहीं ले रहे हैं। पानी की दर भी बिजली की दर अधिक हो जाने के कारण बढ़ जाती है और जिसका कि नतीजा यह होता है कि किसान उनका उपयोग नहीं कर पाते हैं और उपज नहीं बढ़ पाती है। आप को जैसे भी हो इस दर की कम करना पड़ेगा। देश में जो बड़े बड़े डैम बन रहे थे उनसे सबको बड़ी आशा बंध चली थी कि यह जो जल के ज़रिए बजली पैदा की जा रही है उसका परिणाम बिजली की दर में कमी होगा। सन् १९४६ में उत्तर-प्रदेशीय सरकार ने रिहैन्ड डाम की स्कीम वहां की विधान सभा के सामने रक्खी और बड़ा अच्छा स्वरूप दिखलाया कि रिहैन्ड डाम बन जाने के बाद बिजली काफ़ी सस्ती मिलने लगेगी और बिजली २ पैसे या १ पैसे यूनिट मिलेगी। लोगों के दिलों में इसको सुन कर बड़ी खुशी हुई कि अगर बिजली १ पैसे यूनिट मिलने लगी तो फिर कहना ही क्या है, घर घर में बिजली लग जायेगी और जगह जगह बिजली के कल कारखाने चलने लगेंगे और हमारा देश भी तरक्की के रास्ते पर चल कर दुनिया के और उन्नतिशील देशों के साथ सिर उठा कर गर्व के साथ चल सकेगा। लेकिन यह बड़े खेद की बात है कि १९४६ से आज सन् १९५६ हो गया, रिहैन्ड डाम नहीं बन पाया और बिजली की दर जहां ४ आने थी वहां वह उल्टे कम होने के और बढ़ गयी और ८ आने हो गयी।

यह बड़े सन्तोष की बात है कि रिहैन्ड डाम के बारे में केन्द्रीय सरकार ने मदद की है और काम वहां पर शुरू हो गया है और मंत्री महोदय के कथनानुसार सन् १९६० तक वह बन कर पूरा हो जायेगा लेकिन यह मालूम नहीं हो सका है कि वहां की बिजली का रेट क्या होगा। अभी तक जितने स्थानों पर आपने बिजली के भाव दिये हैं उनसे ज़ाहिर हो जाता है कि कहीं पर बिजली एक आने से कम नहीं हुई है। कानपुर एलेक्ट्रिक सप्लाई कम्पनी जब फौरेन हाथ में थी तो बिजली का रेट डेढ़ आने और २ आने फी यूनिट था लेकिन हमने देखा कि जब से गवर्नमेंट ने उस बिजली कम्पनी को नेशनलाइज़ किया तब से उसका रेट बढ़ गया। जब तक हम खर्चे को किसी उपाय से कम नहीं करेंगे तब तक सस्ती बिजली देने के हम अपने लक्ष्य में सफल नहीं हो सकेंगे। जितने ही बोर्डों की हम स्थापना करते जायेंगे उतना ही हमारा खर्चा बढ़ता जायेगा और उस हालत में बिजली की दर कम करना उतना ही मुश्किल हो जायगा।

जब इस रेटिंग कमेटी में २ व्यक्ति तो बोर्ड की तरफ से होंगे, १ लाइसेंसी (अनुज्ञप्तिधारी) का आदमी होगा लेकिन उसमें कंज्यूमर्स का भी कोई आदमी होगा, उनका भी कोई उसमें प्रतिनिधित्व होगा, इसका कोई जिक्र नहीं है। वह पक्ष जो कि आपकी बिजली को लेने वाला है उसकी तरफ आपका ध्यान ही नहीं है। बोर्ड की तरफ से जो दो व्यक्ति वहां पर होंगे और जो १ व्यक्ति लाइसेंसी की तरफ से होगा अथवा चैम्बर्स आफ़ कामर्स की तरफ़ से होगा तो वह तो अपने मुनाफ़े की बात कहेगा और यह साफ बात है कि बोर्ड वालों का सम्पर्क कंज्यूमर्स (उपभोक्ताओं) से कम रहेगा और बिजली का रेट ज्यादा ऊंचा होगा। मैं यह मानता हूं कि इस संशोधन विधेयक के जरिए ३·२५ परसेंट की कमी अवश्य की गई है लेकिन इतनी ही कमी से हमें संतोष नहीं कर लेना पड़ेगा। इस कमी से शायद बहुत कल्याण नहीं होगा और जितना हम विधेयक में बोर्ड के बनाने में खर्च करेंगे वह दोनों मिल कर बराबर सा हो जायेगा।

इसके अतिरिक्त मैं एक विषय की ओर और भवन का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। यहां तो संयोग से पावर एंड इर्रीगेशन मिनिस्ट्री यह दोनों एक ही व्यक्ति के हाथ में हैं लेकिन हमारे प्रान्त में यह स्थिति नहीं है और यह दोनों चीजें दो मिनिस्ट्रों के हाथ में हैं। एक विभाग नलकूप बनवाता है और बिजली वाला बिजली पहुंचाने का काम करता है। अगर यह दोनों काम एक ही व्यक्ति के हाथ में आ जायें तो काम अधिक सुचारु रूप से चल सकता है। अब अलग अलग व्यक्तियों के हाथ में यह दोनों काम रहने के कारण हम देखते हैं कि कहीं अगर नलकूप बन कर तैयार हो गया है तो वहां बिजली अभी तक नहीं पहुंची है और जहां नलकूप नहीं बने हुए हैं वहां बिजली के खम्भे खड़े हुए हैं और बिजली पहुंची हुई है। मैं समझता हूं कि अगर यह काम एक ही आदमी के हाथ में हो तो खर्चा भी कम होगा और काम भी अच्छा होगा। आज हम देखते हैं कि हमारे प्रान्त में एक ही काम को देखने के लिए एक तो एलेक्ट्रिकल (विद्युत) इंजीनियर है और दूसरा हाइड्रोएलेक्ट्रिकल (जलविद्युत) इंजीनियर है जो नहर बनाने वाला है। दोनों इंजीनियर्स हैं, दोनों के ओवरसियर्स हैं और दोनों के पैट्रोल्स हैं, एक ही जमीन को दो जने नापने वाले हैं और दोनों इंजीनियर्स इक्वैली (समान रूप से) क्वालिफ़ाइड हैं, उनमें से एक एलेक्ट्रिकल इंजीनियर बनता है और एक नहर का इंजीनियर बनता है, जब कि दोनों काम एक ही इंजीनियर कर सकता है और इधर आप ध्यान दें तो खर्च में कमी कर सकते हैं और इस तरह खर्च में कमी अगर आप कर सकें तब तो बिजली की दर में कमी होगी अन्यथा बिजली की दर कम नहीं हो सकती।

आज अम्बर चर्खे को कौटेज इंडस्ट्री (कुटीर उद्योग) में चलाने का बड़ा शोर है और ऐसी उम्मीद थी कि अगले ५ वर्षों के अन्दर घर घर में अम्बर चर्खा चलने लग जायेगा। अम्बर चर्खा बिजली के जरिए भी चलाया जा सकता है, वह भी किसी ने अन्वेषण किया है लेकिन लोगों की आशाओं पर यह देख कर तुषारपात हो गया कि ५ वर्षों में जहां २५ लाख अम्बर चर्खे बनने वाले थे वहां लोगों को इस बात में भी शक हो रहा है कि इस साल ७५ हजार भी अम्बर चर्खे बन पायेंगे कि नहीं। आज अम्बर चर्खे को लेकर लोगों के दिलों में एक गुदगुदी सी होती है कि क्या वह दिन भी आयेगा जब हम अपनी जरूरत भर का कपड़ा खुद पैदा कर सकेंगे और वह उम्मीद लगाये बैठे हैं कि बिजली आने के बाद जब अम्बर चर्खा बिजली से चलने लग जायेगा तब तो वे अवश्य इस कपड़े की आत्मनिर्भरता तक पहुंच सकेंगे लेकिन जब वह अम्बर चर्खे के सम्बन्ध में इस तरह के कम बनने की बात सुनते हैं तो वे निराश हो जाते हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त यह भी बड़ा आवश्यक है कि आप गांवों में जो छोटे छोटे कल कारखानों को जो बिजली सुलभ करें उनको शहरों के बड़े बड़े कल कारखानों की अपेक्षा बहुत कम रेट पर दें और मैं चाहता हूं कि आप बिजली की इस

[श्री सिंहासन सिंह]

तरह से दो दर रक्खें । अगर वाकई आप गांधी जी का वह स्वप्न कि गांवों में स्वराज्य हो साकार देखना चाहते हैं, तो वह स्वराज्य बिजली के ही जरिये आ सकता है । बिजली तभी वहां पर आ सकती है जब कि उस की दर कम हो और वह सुलभ हो । हर एक आदमी अपने घर में एक कारखाना खोल सके । आज जापान में साइकिलों की छोटी छोटी दुकानें खुली हुई हैं, उन्हीं में वे लोग साइकिल बनाने के कारखाने खोले हुए हैं जो कि बिजली से चलते हैं । आप को इस बिल में एक धारा और रखनी चाहिये कि अगर कोई काटेज इंडस्ट्री के लिये बिजली लेगा तो उस के लिये बिजली की दर बड़ी बड़ी इंडस्ट्रीज की दर से कम होगी, आधी होगी, तिहाई होगी या पांचवां हिस्सा होगी । इस तरह से उन को प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूं और मंत्री महोदय से यह उम्मीद करता हूं कि विशिष्ट कमेटी में इस बिल को ठीक से सुधार कर यह धारा रक्खेंगे कि काटेज इंडस्ट्री (कुटीर उद्योग) और हैवी इंडस्ट्री (भारी उद्योग) की बिजली की दरों में अन्तर होगा, साथ ही जहां तक सम्भव हो बिजली का भाव कम हो और सब जगहों पर एकसा हो । सारे देश में बिजली की दर का एक स्वरूप हो । यह न हो कि कलकत्ते में तो बिजली सस्ती हो और देहातों में महंगी मिले । हमारी इकानामी (अर्थ व्यवस्था) आज कल उल्टी हो गई है । दिल्ली का जीवन सस्ता है और दिल्ली के पास के देहातों का जीवन महंगा है । हम को इस को फिर से उलट कर रखना चाहिये । देहातों का जीवन सस्ता हो और शहरों का महंगा हो । आज आप बम्बई में एक रुपये में सारा शहर घूम सकते हैं, लेकिन दिल्ली में नहीं घूम सकते, देहातों का तो कहना ही क्या है । आप को ऐसा करना चाहिये कि बिजली की दर एकसां हो, जैसा कि आप योजना में करने का प्रयत्न भी कर रहे हैं । अगर आप की योजना गांवों में चलनी है तो उसके लिये गांवों में बिजली चाहिये । बिजली वहां पर तभी जायेगी जब वहां के आदमी उस को ले सकेंगे । वह कभी भी ४ आ० या ८ आ० यूनिट बिजली के लिये नहीं देंगे जब कि वह ४ आ० का तेल ले कर महीना भर ढेबरी जला कर काम चला सकते हैं । उन में बिजली के लिये ४ आ० देने की क्षमता तभी होगी जब उन के पास व्यवसाय होंगे, और व्यवसाय तभी चल सकेंगे जब उन को बिजली सस्ती मिले । आप जितनी ही बिजली सस्ती करेंगे उतना ही देश का कल्याण होगा । ऐक्ट और नियम तो बनते ही रहते हैं खर्च की कमी की तरफ जैसे आप ने ध्यान दिया है और उस को कम करने का प्रयत्न किया है, यह अच्छी बात है ।

दूसरी चीज जो इस विधेयक में सब से बड़ी है वह यह है कि आप ने कंट्रोलर (नियंत्रक) और आडिटर जनरल (महालेखा परीक्षक) को निरीक्षक रक्खा है । हम ने अब तक जितनी चीजों को नेशनलाइज (राष्ट्रीयकृत) किया है सबों में, बावजूद इस के कि भवन का तकाजा था कि वहां पर कंट्रोलर जनरल (महा नियंत्रक) ही निरीक्षक हो, सरकार ने रजिस्टर्ड कम्पनी (पंजीबद्ध सरकार) के आडिटर्स (लेखा परीक्षकों) को ही निरीक्षक रक्खा है । इस के लिये रजिस्टर्ड कम्पनी के आडिटर्स नहीं रक्खे जायेंगे इस के ऊपर इस विधेयक में ध्यान दिया गया है । इस में कंट्रोलर और आडिटर जनरल को रक्खा गया है यह हमारे लिये प्रसन्नता की बात है और मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूं कि आप ने इस पर ध्यान दिया । मैं तो कहता हूं कि जहां कहीं भी सरकार से सम्बद्ध कोई कार्य हो, उस में जरूरी है कि कंट्रोलर और आडिटर जनरल का हाथ हो । जो कंट्रोलर और आडिटर जनरल की हस्ती है वह हमारी चुनी हुई है और उसमें हमारा पूर्ण विश्वास है । अगर वह सही तरीके से हिसाब किताब को देखेगा तो काम ठीक से चलता रहेगा । उस के छान बीन की रिपोर्ट (प्रतिवेदन) भवन के सामने आती है और हम उस पर गौर कर सकते हैं ।

मैं इसके लिये सरकार को धन्यवाद देते हुए इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूं ।

Shri T. N. Singh (Banaras Distt.—East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have not many points to make in regard to this Bill but I do hope that, when the Select Committee considers this very important measure, one aspect of the problem will be kept in mind. I refer to the monopolistic character of every electricity concern. Now, wherever a monopoly operates, it becomes the duty of the Government, which represents the general public and the consumers of the particular concern's products, to see that the consumer is not put at a disadvantage. That is an accepted principle. Take the instance of the Railways. The Railways are a monopoly. But the Parliament has got constant and continuous control over the administration of the Railways. The Railway Minister can be any day asked to explain his conduct or the administration's conduct in any matter whatsoever. These electricity concerns are also more or less of the same nature. Whereas there is only one concern in the case of the Railways, which is directly subject to parliamentary control—its budget and other things are all put before the Parliament—all kinds of electricity concerns are functioning in all corners of the country. Unless some method is devised which will take the place of parliamentary control, I am afraid the interests of the consumers will not be safeguarded. It is for this reason, principally, that I have got up to participate in this debate. When I looked at the provisions of this Bill, as to how the rates which principally affect the consumers, would be controlled or regulated, I found that there is provision for a rating committee which will look into any petition or representation made by an electricity concern for enhancement of rates. I naturally thought that the consumer was being protected because somebody will look to it so that the rates are not easily raised. But what about the position when the rates are already high and the consumer claims that there is a case for reduction? There is no committee to look into such a representation if made by consumers. There is no provision for that except that the State Government concerned may step in at their own sweet will. The initiative is left in the hands of the State Government or the electricity company in the matter of reducing or enhancing the rates. I wish in this matter initiative was given to consumer himself. If the consumers were to make a representation, to whom shall they make it and who will consider their representation? There is no such provision in this Bill. I feel it is a serious lacuna and it should be remedied.

I am sure it should not be, and it will not be, the intention of the Government that monopolistic concerns spread all over the country should become semi-autocrats in this matter and go on levying their rates as they please for some length of time at least. It may be argued that the State Government is there and if the companies are earning huge profits the State Government will step in. But the State Government can step in only after it has got the audit report. If, after seeing the audit report, the State Government is convinced that exhorbitant rates are being charged, there is surplus profit left and the consumer can be benefitted out of the surplus profit, then only the Government will step in. This position they will know only after two years. It is common knowledge that audit starts three or four months after the conclusion of a financial year of the company, and it takes four to six months to complete the audit. Then the report goes before the directors and a meeting is held. Only after that the report is available to the State Government. Then it will take another three to six months—according to the manner in which a Government functions—for the matter to be taken up. And when the matter is taken up, the same situation may not exist and electricity concerns will resist any interference in this matter. Every business-man would like to make as much

[Shri T. N. Singh]

profit as possible. So I envisage that it may take anything from 2 to 3 years for the State Government to step in and by that time, who knows, the situation might again have changed so that the company can go to the Rating Committee saying that the whole situation has changed, and you cannot do anything on the basis of a report which is two years old.

I was thinking that in the case of other monopolistic concerns there is a system whereby the interests of the consumers are protected against monopolies.

In America, in England and in some other countries in the West, there is a system whereby the consumer is protected. In America, there is an Inter-State Commission which hears appeals from consumers against any railway administration of that country. The Commission says that a particular rate is reasonable or unreasonable and that a particular rate should be reduced. I see no such provision in this Bill. America may be dubbed as a capitalist country but there, we have got a provision which lays down that the shareholders of railways shall not get more than six per cent. as dividend. It may be less, but it cannot be more than six per cent. I also know that the provision for depreciation there is very much stricter than here.

In this Bill there is a reference to the provision of income-tax law. Our Income-tax-Act, as amended, by the Finance Act, provides a lot of facilities to concerns, especially the newer concerns, in the matter of depreciation and income-tax relief. I feel that these electricity concerns cannot be put on a par with others, because other private companies are subject to free competition. Private companies may gain or lose and they have to take risks. But under this Bill, electricity concerns are protected by the State by law and they operate freely without competition. So, the State having given this exclusive advantage, the provisions of the income-tax law which applied to private industries which have to face open competition, cannot be applied in this case. To me, it does not appear to be common sense. Therefore, besides a Rating Committee with more powers I would also urge that Income-tax law rules regarding depreciations should not apply to these concerns.

The next point is, what should be the constitution of a rating committee. I feel that this committee should be of an independent nature. As far as I know, there is no committee of this nature where the parties to the dispute are on the committee. Take, for instance, the Railway Rates Tribunal in India. It is a tribunal consisting mainly of judicial men. I do not say that we must have men from the judiciary on the Rating Committee. There may be various ways of constituting that committee, with men of various qualification and experience. But I do feel that the committee should be an independent one. It is not a committee of any negotiation or arbitration. In the matter of arbitration, one party says that it must have representation and another party says that it must also have its own representative and thus, between them, they select their own friends. This procedure of arbitration—has been followed here Why? Is the dispute going to be decided by a kind of arbitration? We should have a committee which will apply an objective mind to the problem and see that the consumers' interests are protected and that the concern does not go to dogs. So, having all these aspects in view, I would strongly advocate that the Rating Committee should be of an independent nature and it should consist of persons who are not allied with, or who have no bias in favour of, this or that part of the organisation of electricity concerns.

I will now refer to one or two points in regard to general administrative policies of our electricity concerns. Hydel power is, I think, mostly if not 100 per cent. under State control, and I take it that this Bill will operate, only with regard to those

electricity concerns which are thermal units run either by coal or by diesel oil. In a thermal plant, coal or diesel forms the principal element of recurring expenditure. As the distance of the coal mine increases, from the place where electricity is produced the cost of coal goes up. In Saurashtra, for instance, coal prices are more than double or nearly treble the cost at pit-head. To generate electricity by thermal power at such a long distance for coal mines is, I think, a very great hardship on the consumer because the rates charged are bound to be high.

Here in Delhi, the rate of electricity is about four annas for domestic purposes, the rate for power is one anna six pies. I fail to see why in nearby Rajasthan it goes up to six annas or eight annas, though the freight cost which is the main element for coal is not very much higher. I have calculated the whole thing, and I find that the freight element, because of a difference of about 200 miles, does not go to more than five or six per cent. of the total cost.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: In other places also, the same difficulty is there.

Shri T. N. Singh: I was coming to that. In Banaras, Groakhpur, Lucknow, Allahabad and even in Patna, where the cost of transport of coal is much less, how is it that the cost of electricity there is higher than in Delhi?

Shri B. D. Pande (Almora Distt.-North-East): I pay nine annas in my part of the country, and diesel is used there.

Shri T. N. Singh: I would like to hear the hon. Minister on this point and I would like to know what will be the policy on these matters. Electricity companies which are near the ports particularly on the western coast should not be allowed to run on coal because coal is costly. Cheap diesel is available at the ports, and the companies near the ports should utilies diesel oil. We have got the Trombay refineries near Bombay. I am told that we have today a surplus of diesel oil which remains unutilised, even after such a short time of our starting the refineries. So, I see no reason why a rational management of electricity concerns should not be enforced. It will be possible only when the pressure of the consumer is kept at its maximum. I regret very much that there is no scope in this Bill for the consumer to make his presence felt. I do not want to go into further details neither do I wish to weary the House with the economics of electricity or go into the freight structure of coal or diesel oil. That is not necessary.

In the present context of things, when we are thinking of dispersal of industries and when the second Five Year Plan and the succeeding Plans will take the country in a certain direction, I do not know how far it will be feasible to have power costing one or one and a half annas per unit at one place and costing eight annas per unit or so in another place. Here in Delhi, power costs one anna six pies for even domestic use. In other places it costs about six annas, five annas or at least four annas. Such a position cannot be allowed to exist. I have great fears about creation and functioning of so many monopolistic concerns which will be protected by law in several matters. Parts of the original Act which are not being amended give certain protection to these concerns. It is to be seen whether in the context of all these things, this amending measure will stand the test of time and will also satisfy our needs. I have my doubts about it. I feel that probably we have not applied our mind even to the question whether it is feasible to have a uniform power rate, if not all over the country, at least in certain zones. If we have a zonal system for rate purposes the industries

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requiring power shall flourish at any place, provided they have got the necessary skill and raw material available there to start those industries. I doubt very much whether this aspect has been given full consideration. If it has been considered, I would ask the hon. Minister to give us in his reply an analysis as to how in various regions this power rate is functioning, and what is its incidence and how it affects the major industries, the consumers and the cottage industries in the villages. With all the experts that the hon. Minister must be having at his disposal, these aspects of the problem might have been considered.

The Bill has its good points and there are many useful provisions. It is but proper that the Bill should go to a Select Committee, which should go into all these details. I am sure our friends here will apply their mind to these aspects of the problem and bring back the Bill in a form which will not only be acceptable to the House, but which will really do good to the ordinary man and to the average creaftsman, as also to the biggest of industries, so that all may benefit.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): This Bill, which is being sent to a Select Committee, has received the general support of the Members who have spoken so far. Naturally, I would also like to extend my general support; but, I shall make some points of criticism, which I hope the Select Committee will consider.

We all realise the importance of electricity in the industrialisation of the country. In all countries in the world which are progressing industrially at a very fast rate, electricity plays a very important part. In the Soviet Union, when the Dneiper Dam was first constructed, it was considered an epoch-making event for the backward areas and the progress of Soviet Union. That it has led to the rapid industrialisation of that country has been proved by subsequent events. In our country, even before the Congress came into power, when the Planning Committee was appointed in 1938, they laid emphasis on the development of the natural resources which might ultimately help in the generation of electricity, to be utilised for the industrialisation of the country. So, it should be the endeavour of this Parliament to see that the lacunae and the defects in this legislation which deals with concerns generating and supplying electricity are removed.

My friends who spoke before me dealt at great length on the aspect of the consumers' interest. Certainly I also join hands with them and I shall give a few examples to show to what extent the consumers' interest has not been taken into consideration. Since 1947, we have started many irrigation and multi-purpose projects, the main function of which is generation of electricity. The D.V.C. is possibly the most important of them. Many times questions have been asked about the supply of electricity to the rural areas and also the cities which are close to the Damodar Valley. The most important point is to what extent actually the consumers are benefited by the investment the nation has made for the construction of the plant at Bokaro and utilisation of the resources in this particular area for the generation of electricity. The Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation supplies electricity to the people in the Calcutta area. Power is also sold to the existing or newly formed supply concerns in that particular area at a very cheap rate—6 pies per unit. But when this energy is actually sold to the consumer, it is sold at a price which is equated with the cost of production of the power generated by the other firms. The Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation takes power from the D.V.C at 6 pies, but it supplies the electric energy to the consumers in Calcutta and the suburbs proposed to be included

under the new grid system at 10 pice. In some areas, it is sold at 6 annas. Even in some areas round about and very close to the Damodar area, it is sold at 7½ annas.

The most important point which I would like the hon. Minister to take into consideration is this. Electricity is supposed to be supplied to the rural areas to help the development of the cottage industries and the small-scale industries found in the rural areas and small townships around Calcutta. There it is sold at a price which economically speaking is beyond the means of the consumers. The result is the industries in the small townships do not develop at all. The ironical part of it is that in the Calcutta industrial area, the industrialists get the electrical energy at a concession rate. Even in Delhi, the consumers have to pay different rates for consumption of electricity for lights, fans etc. The rates for the industrialists, again, are very cheap. In Calcutta, and round about though the D.V.C. itself produces electricity at a very low price, the price charged to the consumers in the rural areas or the Calcutta—whether it be a cottage industry, a small-scale industry or a foundry—is very high. Therefore, I would like the Minister to take into consideration the fact that the D.V.C. which is being run with the nation's money is allowing these private concerns to make enormous profits at the cost of the nation. In the case of the big industrialists you have a different rate and they do not suffer, but why should you not apply the same principle to the rural or urban areas where cottage and small scale industries are to be developed? I hope that in the future when licences are granted under the provisions of this Bill, Government would see that this power is utilised really for the industrialisation of the country and for the development of backward areas and those areas where cheap electricity might help in development and improvement. I know full well from my own experience that even under the grid system round about Calcutta—it has now gone to the north by about 60 miles or so—the consumers have not benefited. They have complained to us: "We do not get any benefit from the Government's policy because we pay the same old very high rate. We do not know at what subsidised rate the Government is selling electricity to this particular electric supply concern.

There is a point which my friend Shri T. N. Singh has already dealt with. I personally feel that too small electric supply undertakings often lead to high cost of production. Of course, in some places it may be difficult and not absolutely judicious to have a big concern because it may be just one township round about the Himalayas where energy has to be supplied, or there may be an island or some small area round about which there is no habitation. But if there are small towns or big villages in the adjoining area within a limit of 15 or 20 miles, it is much better to have one centralised electric supply concern, and through the modern method of the grid system or any other method that technological improvement in the different parts of the world has given us, we can certainly see that the over-all cost of electric supply is reduced. In Darjeeling District every tea garden has got its own generating plant. There was a proposal that the entire district should be catered to by one electric supply concern. I am not an expert. The Ministry has its own experts, and can find out if this is possible. If this is done, it will reduce the cost so far as the supply of electric energy is concerned. I would like the Government to take this into consideration.

The difficulty is that the small companies often keep their cost of production at quite a high level because they have monopoly contracts and they can charge whatever rate they want commensurate with the profit that is allowed under the Act. Therefore, they do not have the inclination to reduce the cost of production. We must take into consideration human

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feelings and sentiments as they are. Therefore, I think that, when we have a plan to increase the supply of electric energy and naturally new licences have to be granted, Government should take into consideration this point that too small units should not be allowed if it is technically possible to have one combined big unit in an area without very much capital expenditure. Of course, I realise that in certain cases small units may be necessary.

I do not know whether the point that I am going to raise has been covered by the Bill and whether the necessary power is there with the Government. I know that many of the old electric supply concerns have huge money by way of deposits which have not been claimed. I was told that in the Calcutta electric supply concern, it works out to about a crore of rupees. Each consumer has to keep a security deposit of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 in the deposit account with the company. The consumer may live in the city for some time and then may be transferred. He does not bother so much often to get back the deposit because he has to leave at short notice. He has to enter into correspondence, and there are other difficulties and technicalities which mean a good deal of botheration, and so he does not claim this. I have got information from persons who have worked in the Calcutta electric supply concern that if you calculate such unclaimed deposits, it may run up to a crore of rupees. Of course, the Minister can verify. Why under the law should this particular monopoly concern get the advantage of these deposits, why should these deposits be allowed to be utilised by the company as it chooses, and why should not the nation have a claim on them? Under the company law, in the case of the liquidation of a company, if the dividend that is payable to a person is not distributed within a certain date, that money is sent to the Reserve Bank and kept in a particular account and paid to the gentleman whenever he claims it. That money is not kept with the private liquidator to be spent as he chooses. Similarly, I know in our part after insolvency if any money is not claimed by a creditor within a certain period, that money goes to a special fund of the Government and is not kept with the Official Assignee or the person in charge administering the estate of the insolvent. Therefore, I feel that especially in respect of the big concerns which are mostly foreign owned and which have been in our country for the last 50 or 60 years, Government should make a special provision that if within a certain period the security deposits are not claimed, they should be transferred to the Government and kept separately. If the person concerned claims it, it will be refunded, otherwise it will be utilised by Government as they choose, so that these monopoly concerns do not utilise these huge deposits as they choose without accounting for them by way of declaration of dividend to the shareholders or bonus to the workers.

Then I would like to support the point of view of the consumer regarding the rates. This rating provision is usually rather cumbersome and difficult. Government may appoint a committee to look into it. Shri T. N. Singh has given the example of the Railway Rates Advisory Council before the War which has become the Railway Rates Tribunal later on, which includes a consumer or a consumer's representative. In the new company law we have a provision that a certain number of shareholders can ask for an enquiry, but these electric supply companies are outside the purview of the company law. They are guided by a special law, the Electricity Act, and therefore it is absolutely incumbent that consumers who are vitally interested in the rates as well as the management of the company, should have some say in the matter. You may say that if every consumer is given the right of making an application there may be

an endless volume of litigation. So, I suggest you may make it a group of 50 or 100 people for a City like Calcutta and a lesser number for smaller areas who should have the right to initiate proceedings to enquire into their grievances and to find out whether the rate charged to them is too high or not. I hope the Select Committee will take this into consideration and try to improve the provisions of this Bill.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize one point both from the consumer's angle and from the workers' angle. The electricity concerns do not come under the operation of the company law and they have a special form of submitting accounts unlike the other companies. There are well-established firms working in the thickly populated or highly industrialised areas which make enormous profits. Even then they are very stingy in the matter of providing amenities for their workers or giving them bonus. The Labour Tribunals are debarred from entering into their affairs. They keep their accounts in a particular way, which is not the manner in which companies incorporated under the Companies Act should maintain them. We know that in our welfare State, especially with the new bias on socialism pattern, workers form a very important part among the productive forces. Electric energy is so important for the development of our industries that workers in it should have a fair deal, so that they may play the role expected of them in this vital branch of our means of production. Even the consumers if they are made aware of the real position of the company may raise their voice of protest against that enormous profits made by it and clamour for a reduction in the rates. We can certainly appreciate that when a new electric supply company is started the consumers are very few and it may be then necessary at that point to charge somewhat high rates, because the overhead charges remain the same. But as the supply increases the cost of production is bound to go down and the overhead charges are bound to decrease and the company would be in a position to supply energy at a comparatively low rate. But because of the monopolistic position they hold, they do not do it. If the consumers have some opportunity to look into the real state of affairs, if accounts are kept in the usually prescribed manner, and periodical reports of the working of the company are published, they can on their own move or make the Government sit up and see that the rates are decreased.

2 P.M.

In conclusion I would like to say that whenever electric energy generated by our national undertakings, either thermal or hydel, is distributed, even through private undertakings, especially to the rural areas they must see, if they are particular of changing the face of India which everyone has at heart, that the energy is supplied at a concessional, or even at a subsidised rate, so that cottage and small scale industries may be developed. Pump irrigation is bound to play a very important part in the agricultural life of India and should receive special consideration in the matter of supply of energy at concessional rates. These factors should be taken into consideration and the Minister should see that the electric energy is supplied at a cheap rate, so that the nation may benefit.

I hope that the Select Committee in their wisdom and in the course of their deliberations will certainly improve upon the provisions of the Bill, so that electricity which is so vital to the nation may be allowed to play the role which is expected of it in the future set-up of the society which all of us have at heart.

सेठ अचल सिंह (जिला आगरा—पश्चिम): यह जो एलक्ट्रिकसिटी सप्लाई अमेंडमेंट बिल (विद्युत संभरण संशोधन विधेयक) हमारे सामने पेश है, उसकी बड़ी आवश्यकता थी और मैं उसका स्वागत करता हूं ।

[सेठ अचल सिंह]

आजकल संसार में जहां जहां उन्नति हुई है, बिजली के जरिए से हुई है, चाहे यूरोप में हो, अमरीका में हो, यह जितनी हम तरक्की देखते हैं और मनुष्यों को जो आम इनकम (आय) आज पहले से बढ़ गई है, उसका खास कारण बिजली है। यह खुशी का मुकाम है कि जब से हम स्वाधीन हुए हैं तब से ही हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स (राज्य सरकारें) भी इस ओर पूरा ध्यान दे रही हैं और हर स्टेट गवर्नमेंट अपने अपने वहां डैम्स तैयार करा रही है जैसे भाखड़ा-नंगल, हीराकुड, दामोदर प्रोजेक्ट, तुंगभद्रा, गंगासागर, राहिन डेम आदि और उनके जरिए लाखों किलोवाट हाइड्रोएलेक्ट्रिक (जल विद्युत) करैंट पैदा किया जा रहा है और जहां कोयले की इफारत (अधिकता) है वहां पर थर्मल प्लांट्स (तापीय संयंत्र) लगाये जा रहे हैं जैसे बुखारो। इस तरीके से हम देखते हैं कि तमाम देश में आज लाखों किलोवाट बिजली तैयार हो रही है। इसके अतिरिक्त बहुत सी प्राइवेट लिमिटेड कम्पनियां (गैर सरकारी लिमिटिड समवाय) भी बिजली का काम कर रही हैं लेकिन चूंकि बिजली की मांग हमारे देश में अपेक्षाकृत बहुत ..िक है और उतनी बिजली हमारे यहां अभी नहीं है जितनी कि हमको आवश्कता है, इसलिए यह आवश्यक था कि इस तरह का कोई एक प्रबन्ध किया जाता और बिजली का कोई कन्ट्रोलिंग सेंटर बनाया जाय ताकि जितनी बिजली पैदा हो उसको ठीक से कंट्रोल किया जाय ताकि माकूल बटवारा व एक से रेट हो सकें। इस काम को करने के लिए यह जो बोर्ड इस विधेयक के जरिए बनाया जा रहा है, मैं उस बोर्ड के बनाने का स्वागत करता हूं। उस बोर्ड में सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट (केन्द्रीय सरकार) का और हर एक प्रान्तीय गवर्नमेंट का और लिमिटेड और प्राइवेट बिजली कम्पनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व होना चाहिए, साथ ही कंज्यूमर्स (उपभोक्ताओं) का भी उस बोर्ड में प्रतिनिधित्व होना चाहिए ताकि हर एक का इंटरैस्ट (हित) सेफगार्डस (सुरक्षित) हो सके।

आजकल जो बहुत सी लिमिटेड और प्राइवेट बिजली कम्पनियां हैं, वे काफ़ी मुनाफ़ा उठा रही हैं और जनता की अधिक कीमत पर बिजली दी जा रही है।

मेरा यह भी सुझाव है कि यह बोर्ड जब बन जायेगा तो वह इस बात को भी देखे कि जो छोटी छोटी इंडस्ट्रीज (उद्योग) देहातों और कस्बों में हैं और जिनको कि बिजली नहीं मिलती है उनको भी बिजली मिले और कम रेट (दर) पर मिले और वह रेट बड़े बड़े कल कारखानों के बिजली के रेट से कम हो। बोर्ड के बनने का मैं स्वागत करता हूं और उसके बन जाने पर यह देखना चाहिए कि ऐसे बहुत से अनेक स्थान जहां बिजली बहुत कम पहुंची है वहां पर बिजली पहुंचाई जाय। आज कुछ स्टेटों में बिजली बन कर तैयार तो हुई है लेकिन देखना यह होगा कि हर जगह जहां पर बिजली की जरूरत हो, पहुंचाया जाय ताकि हमारी एग्रीकलचर इंडस्ट्री (कृषि उद्योग) और दूसरे जो छोटे छोटे ग्रामोद्योग हैं वे पनप सकें और तरक्की कर सकें। हमारी कोशिश सब की ज्यादा से ज्यादा बिजली कम रेट पर पहुंचाने की होनी चाहिए। मैं इन चन्द शब्दों के साथ इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं और आशा करता हूं कि सेलेक्ट कमेटी इन विचारों पर गौर (विचार) कर के बिल में स्थान देगी।

Shri D. C. Sharma: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a saying attributed to Lenin: electricity is God. I believe, Sir, that all sources of energy in this world are God; of course I am using the word in a non-theological sense. I believe that all sources of energy, rivers, electricity, oil, gas, all these sources of energy should be nationalised, and nothing should be left to the option of States, because I know that unless that is done India will not have that poten-

tial of energy which is needed for its agricultural development and for its industrial expansion. I, therefore, say that when I find it stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons to this Bill that they are going to vest certain supervisory powers in the State Governments I do not feel happy. It is not that I am in any way going to blame the State Governments, but I believe that ultimately, in the long run, India has got, the Centre has got to control all these sources of power and energy and the sooner we make a beginning in that direction the better it is.

Our Minister of Planning brought two Bills recently, the Inter-States Water Disputes Bill and the River Boards Bill. I was happy that he was moving in that direction. But here I find in this Bill that he is going to give supervisory powers to State Governments for this most useful source of energy which I think is not suited in the context of India today. It might have been suitable seven or eight years ago, but I do not think today it is going to work. Therefore what we need is this. The hon. Minister should bring forward a Bill which should make provision for all India control of this energy.

I have looked through this Bill and I find that it is lop-sided. It is overweighted in one direction, and it has left out of account so many other directions. It has concentrated all its attention on the financial aspect; I know the financial aspect is very important. For instance, I know, the electricity supply industry is going to have the benefits of development rebate. I welcome this. I also know that there are other things which have been put down in this Bill, which lead to financial control. For instance, the licences cannot earn a profit of more than 15 per cent. All these things are very good. Finances, I know, are the rock-bottom of any industrial undertaking. But they are not the be-all-and-end-all of all these things. There are other things, and I find that those things have not been taken into account in this Bill.

My hon. friend Shri K. K. Basu referred to the Damodar Valley Corporation. I also can refer to the Bhakra-Nangal project, because it is in my constituency. Now, what is this Bhakra-Nangal project? It has a network of canals, which fills anybody with joy. And one power-house is springing up after another. When you look at these power-houses, you feel as if they are not the products of human ingenuity but the result of some superhuman skill. All these things are there. So many kilowatts of energy are being generated, and so much water is flowing down these canals. When I go to Bhakra-Nangal, I feel very happy.

But what is the Hoshiarpur district getting out of Bhakra-Nangal? Water flows to other parts of the Punjab. It irrigates PEPSU and Rajasthan also. But only a very small modicum of the water comes to Hoshiarpur district. Big power-houses are being set-up, but only a modicum of that energy is available to the people of Hoshiarpur. I was recently in the Garshankar tehsil in my constituency. So many tube-wells are there, but the people say that they do not have electricity to run these tube-wells. Similarly, there is the Una tehsil in my constituency. It is rocky area. You cannot have any tube-wells there because the soil is very hard and rocky.

The point I am making is that while you are going to exercise control over these boards in the matter of generation of electricity, you should also exercise some control, at the same time, over the distribution of the electricity that is generated. Generation is important, but distribution is also very important. When I was a young boy, I used to hear a particular song, which I shall recite now. Since we are now in the habit of quoting couplets, I hope you would not mind if I also quote a couplet, though it is not of a very high quality.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I would not mind the quality, but it should be relevant.

Shri D. C. Sharma: It would be relevant. I know, while you are in the Chair, nobody can afford to be irrelevant.

The couplet is:

समुन्दर में पाबी बरसता रहा

बीकानेर बिचारा तरसता रहा

There is generation of electricity, but so far as distribution is concerned, it is very uneven and inequitable. I would say that in this board, something should be said about the proper and even distribution of electricity, not only so far as big cities are concerned, but even so far as municipal towns and important towns are concerned. In Hoshiarpur, there used to be a privately run electricity supply company. That has now been taken over by the State. What is the result? Of course, when it was run privately, the charges were very high. But the electricity supply was even, and we used to get electricity throughout the night and only occasionally, there was a break. But after it has been taken over by the State Government, the rates have gone down. There is no doubt about it. But we do not know when the electricity may fail.

So, what I would say is that in this Bill, we should give some directive to the States for the proper distribution of electricity, for the proper balance between big towns, small towns and rural areas, and also for a proper balance between big industries, medium industries, small industries and cottage industries.

As you know, Sir, Japan is a highly industrialised country, and the glory of Japan, of course, is big industry, but it is also due to her small industries. These small industries have been made possible with the help of the proper distribution of electricity in the villages. But not much is said in this Bill about this.

We are talking about the industrial and scientific management cadre. The managerial side of an undertaking is, of course, very important. But what has been said about the managerial side here? It has only been said that a man can be removed from the directorate for this reason or for that reason, and he can be punished for this reason or that reason. No specific instructions have been given for the effective management of these undertakings, over which our State boards should exercise some kind of vigilance.

Again, for the proper functioning of any industrial undertaking, you have to look not only to the managerial side, but also to the working side. Of course, I am very happy that the workers are going to get bonus. But I would tell the Minister in all humility and in all modesty, that he should have made some more provision for the effective utilisation of these workers. There is the Hindustan Shipyard, for instance, and they have made certain suggestions for enlisting and attracting the co-operation of these workers. But I find that the State Electricity Board is going to be nothing but a financial undertaking. It talks in terms of rebates, development expenses, reasonable profits and so on. But it ignores the human side of the industry, to a great extent. And I believe, the human side means much more than anything else.

I find that the consumers also have been shown the cold shoulder. Further, the rates committee is going to be a committee of experts. That is very good. We want experts in this world, and we have great regard for these experts. But the man who wears the shoe knows where it pinches, and he should also have some right to speak. Therefore, I would say that in the rates committees which are going to be constituted,

there should be some place for those persons who consume electricity. In this respect, I would point out that there would be big consumers as also small consumers. But I would say that when these things are going to be dealt with, those should be some place for the small consumers, because, if you look after the interests of the small consumers, the interests of the big consumers will be looked after automatically.

Again, I would say that it is very good that in this Bill we have made a provision for the auditing of accounts by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India. It is a wholesome provision, though this morning I was reading, like many of my hon. friends, the second report of Dr. Appleby. When I was reading his remarks about the Comptroller and Auditor-General, I had a strange kind of feeling. I do not know what kind of feeling I had. But I felt that the Comptroller and Auditor-General was a very useful person, a very helpful functionary of the State, whose functions were very beneficial to the interests of our country. I felt like that, but I also felt that it was not all there. There might be some other method or device of looking after the financial soundness of these undertakings, but as long as we do not have those methods, I think we have to depend upon the Comptroller and Auditor-General, who is a very admirable functionary of the State.

As I have already said, the whole of this Bill is tilted in favour of financial things. We have got other kinds of audit also, and I would request the hon. Minister very humbly to make some provision for efficiency audit also. The State Electricity Boards should have some provisions, some authority, for efficiency audit. You know that we are having so many of these undertakings in our country. They make me happy; they make me proud also. But I would say that it is very necessary that we must institute the system of efficiency audit if we are going to make these undertakings run as admirably as we want.

As I said in the beginning, I welcome this Bill, as we welcome everything that comes to this House. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is the hon. Member speaking on his own behalf or on behalf of others also?

Shri D. C. Sharma: We always start by welcoming everything that is placed before us. So I welcome this Bill. But I also say that the hon. Minister should see to it that this Bill becomes more balanced. I hope the Select Committee will look into this aspect and see that this Bill becomes more rounded, that it becomes a perfect circle, that it does not remain an arc, that it does not lean towards one side too much, neglecting other things. They should make provision for efficiency audit, for workers, for consumers and for distribution. All these things should be looked into when the Bill is before the Select Committee.

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह (जिला बनारस मध्य) : यह बिल जो कि प्रस्तुत किया गया है, इसका मैं पूरा पूरा स्वागत करने में अपने आपको असमर्थ पाता हूं । फिर भी जिस रूप में इसको यहां पर पेश किया गया है उसका स्वागत होना चाहिये ।

जहां तक शक्ति का सम्बन्ध है, यह प्रकृति की देन है और शास्त्रों के अनुसार यह इन्द्र देवता का वज्र है, इन्द्र देवता का हथियार है । यदि इसका प्रयोग राक्षसों का शमन करने में किया जाये तो अच्छा होगा । साधुओं का शमन इसके द्वारा नहीं होना चाहिये । अभी हाल ही में अयोध्या में साधुओं का एक सम्मेलन किया गया था लेकिन मैं समझता हूं कि आजकल जिनको साधु माना जाना चाहिये वे गरीब लोग ही हैं । जो पूंजीपति हैं, जो अमीर लोग हैं उनको तो भगवान चारों तरफ से माया देता है लेकिन हम लोग जो गरीब जनता है वे अनाथ हैं उनका भी आपको ध्यान रखना

[श्री रघुनाथ सिंह]

चाहिये । अभी हमारे दोस्त पांडे जी कह रहे थे कि अल्मोड़ा में बिजली का रेट नौ आना फी यूनिट है और बनारस में जहां पर मैं रहता हूं और जो कि साधुओं का गढ़ है और जहां पर सन्यासी रहते हैं, इसका रेट साढ़े पांच आना पर यूनिट है ।

श्री दी० च० शर्मा : साधु समाज भी वहीं है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : दिल्ली में इसका रेट शायद चार आना पर यूनिट है । हावड़ा और कलकत्ता में इसका भाव ढाई आना है । इसी तरह से यदि आप पावर के रेट को देखें तो कलकत्ता में इसका रेट एक आना है, दिल्ली में छः पैसा है और बनारस में तीन आना है । मैं समझता हूं कि बम्बई में शायद इसका रेट दो पैसा है । इसके साथ ही साथ हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में एक और विचित्र समस्या है । बिजली पर वहां सेल्स टैक्स लगा था और अब इस पर २५ परसेंट (प्रतिशत) सरचार्ज लगा दिया गया है । इस तरह से वहां की जो गरीब जनता है उस पर बहुत अन्याय हो रहा है । इस वास्ते मैं प्रार्थना करता हूं कि कोई ऐसा उपाय होना चाहिये जिससे हम गरीब लोगों को भी कुछ राहत मिल सके । आप जिन लोगों को पावर देते हैं उनको आप दो पैसा यूनिट के हिसाब से या छः पैसा यूनिट के हिसाब से देते हैं और इनको जो कनज्यूम (उपभोग) करते हैं वे अमीर लोग ही करते हैं या जो बड़े बड़े कारखानों वाले होते हैं वे ही पावर से अपने कारखानों को चलाते हैं । दिल्ली में आप जो बिजली सप्लाई करते हैं डोमेस्टिक यूज (घरेलू प्रयोग) के लिये उसका रेट भी कम है और लोग भी अमीर हैं । लेकिन बनारस, अलाहाबाद, गोरखपुर, अल्मोड़ा इत्यादि में आप जो बिजली सप्लाई करते हैं और उसका जो रेट है, एक तो वह ज्यादा है और जो उसको कनज्यूम करते हैं वे गरीब लोग हैं ।

श्री उ० मू० त्रिवेदी : क्या गरीब लोग अलाहाबाद में ही हैं ?

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : अतएव मेरा यह निवेदन है कि बिजली के रेट में समता होनी चाहिये । जब ऐसा होगा तो बिजली लोगों के लिये और भी अधिक उपयोगी साबित होगी ।

इस विधेयक में यह भी कहा गया है कि यदि १५ परसेंट का लाभ किसी कम्पनी को हो तो रेट को रिड्यूस (कम) करने का अधिकार उसको होगा । पहले यह अधिकार उनको तब था जब उनको ३० परसेंट लाभ हुआ करता था । मैं समझता हूं कि यह जो १५ परसेंट की लिमिट रखी गई है, इसे भी आपको और कम करना चाहिये ।

श्री नन्दा : यह फायदा नहीं है, १५ परसेंट वेरियेशन (अन्तर) है ।

श्री रघुनाथ सिंह : मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यदि आपकी कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन (उत्पादन लागत) एक पैसा हो तो आपको दो पैसा चार्ज करना चाहिये । अगर कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन तीन पैसा हो तो छः पैसा के हिसाब से आपको चार्ज (भारित) करना चाहिये । आपको चाहिये कि आप सेंट परसेंट (सौ प्रतिशत) यानी दुगना फायदा कर लें । लेकिन आज तो यह ही रहा है कि यदि आपकी कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन एक पैसा है तो आप छः आना फी यूनिट के हिसाब से चार्ज कर रहे हैं । यह जरा अन्याय मालूम होता है । आपको मालूम ही होगा कि जो गल्ले के व्यापारी हैं उनको एक रुपये में एक आना से भी कम मुनाफा होता है । इसी तरह से ज्यादा ज्यादा किसी चीज के व्यापारी को तीन आने रुपये से अधिक मुनाफा नहीं होता है । लेकिन इसके विपरीत जो प्राइवेट कम्पनियों (गैर सरकारी समवायों) हैं उनको तो अन्धाधुन्ध फायदा हो रहा है और जो रेट वे चाहती

हैं चार्ज कर लेती हैं । इसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि हम जो गरीब लोग हैं, वे पिसे जा रहे हैं । आपकी जो नीति सस्ती बिजली सप्लाई करने की है यह उसके विपरीत जाती है । आज हमारी जो पालिसी है वह डि-सैन्ट्रेलाइजेशन (विकेन्द्रीकरण) की ओर अधिक है । लेकिन यह चीज बिल्कुल उसके खिलाफ़ जाती है । आज कलकत्ता में अगर पावर छः पेसे के हिसाब से सप्लाई होती है तो बनारस में वह तीन आने के हिसाब से सप्लाई की जाती है । इसका एक नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि जहां पर पावर महंगी है वहां पर कोई कारखाना स्थापित करने का प्रयास नहीं करता है । महंगी बिजली तथा पावर के कारण अल्मोड़ा में कोई वूल की मिल नहीं खोल सकता है । अगर कोई कारखाना खोलना चाहता है तो वह बम्बई तथा दूसरे बड़े शहरों में जहां पर दाम सस्ते हैं वहीं खोलना पसन्द करता है । आज जो बिजली है वह हमारे जीवन का उसी तरह से एक अंग बन गई है जिस तरह से कि पानी है या अन्न है ।

आजकल हम अपने सभी कार्यों और व्यवहार में —रेडियो, फ़ैन, लाइट के लिये और उद्योगों में—इलैक्ट्रिसिटी (विद्युत) का उपयोग करते हैं । वह हमारे जीवन का एक अनिवार्य अंग हो गई है—वह हमारे लिये एक एसैन्शियल (अत्यावश्यक) चीज हो गई है । मेरा नम्र निवेदन यह है कि यह धारा महात्मा जी के डीसैन्ट्रेलाइजेशन के सिद्धान्त—विकेन्द्रीकरण की नीति—के बिलकुल विपरीत जा रही है । आज स्थिति यह है कि देश के सब भागों के व्यापारी बम्बई, दिल्ली और कलकत्ता जैसे बड़े शहरों में, जहां कि चीप (सस्ती) पावर मिलती है, केन्द्रित हो रहे हैं । मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि मैं बड़े शहरों के पक्ष में नहीं हूं । आज हम देख रहे हैं कि इस दिल्ली शहर को अठाइस मील के दायरे में बसाया जा रहा है और कलकत्ता चालीस मील के दायरे में बढ़ रहा है । इसी प्रकार बम्बई नगर का स्वरूप भी बड़ा विशाल हो रहा है । और इस कार्य पर करोड़ों रुपये व्यय किये जा रहे हैं । अगर युद्ध आरंभ हो गया और एक एटम बम किसी बड़े नगर पर पड़ा—जो कि पड़ना नहीं चाहिये और मेरा विश्वास है कि पड़ेगा भी नहीं—तो इस नगर की करोड़ों रुपये की सम्पत्ति नष्ट हो जायेगी और यह सब व्यर्थ हो जायेगा । नागासकी और हिरोसिमा की तरह वहां कुछ भी नहीं बचेगा । इस सम्बन्ध में मेरा मत यह है कि हमको सोवियत रूस की पालिसी का अनुकरण करना चाहिए । उस ने अपनी फैक्टरियां यूराल में स्थापित कीं, जो कि बम्बार्डमेंट के रेंज से बिल्कुल बाहर है । इसी कारण सोवियत रूस की रक्षा हो सकी । युद्ध में उसके सब उद्योग बिल्कुल सुरक्षित रहे। लेकिन मुझे खेद है कि हमारे यहां एक बिल्कुल विपरीत धारा चल रही है । मैं बड़ी नम्रता के साथ यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि बड़े शहर हमारे लिये कदापि उपयोगी साबित नहीं हो सकते हैं । हमको यह मार्ग अपनाना चाहिये कि हमारे यहां जो इंडस्ट्रीज हैं, हम उनको सारे देश में, सब सूबों में बांट दें — उन स्थानों में स्थापित करें, जहां गरीब लोग रहते हैं । अगर हम अलमोड़ा में चीप पावर सप्लाई करें और वूल की एक फैक्टरी स्टार्ट करें, तो वहां के रहने वाले अधिकांश गरीब लोगों के लिये जीविका का एक मुख्य साधन उपलब्ध हो सकता है । राजपूताना में बहुत ऊन होती है—लगभग ७० प्रतिशत ऊन वहां होती है, लेकिन वह सब बाहर एक्सपोर्ट हो जाती है । अगर हम वहां चीप पावर उपलब्ध करें, तो वहां पर कोई भी व्यापारी अपना प्लांट (संयंत्र) स्टार्ट कर सकता है । इसका लाभ यह होगा कि वहां की गरीब जनता—वहां के मजदूरों—की जेब में चार पैसे जायेंगे और उनकी आमदनी में कुछ वृद्धि होगी । लेकिन आजकल हम देखते हैं कि चूंकि चीप पावर उपलब्ध होने के कारण अधिकतर उद्योग कलकत्ता इत्यादि नगरों में स्थापित हो रहे हैं, इसलिये

[श्री रघुनाथ सिंह]

देश के सब भागों से मजदूर वहां जा रहे हैं। इसका फल यह है कि हर एक स्थान पर लेबर प्राबलम पैदा हो रही है, हालांकि जो मजदूर बनारस में बीस रुपया पाता है, उसको कलकत्ता में साठ या अस्सी रुपये मिलते हैं।

अगर वास्तव में महात्मा गांधी के सिद्धान्त का अनुकरण आपको स्वीकार है, अगर आपको देश की उन्नति करनी है, गरीब जनता का जीवन स्तर ऊंचा उठाना है, स्माल-स्केल इंडसट्रीज (छोटे पैमाने के उद्योगों) को प्रोत्साहित करना है, तो आप इस बात का प्रयास करें कि गांव गांव में चीप इलैक्ट्रिसिटी (सस्ती विद्युत) पहुंचे। पिछले दिनों अम्बर चर्खे की स्कीम निकाली गई थी। वह पावर से भी चल सकता है। छोटे-छोटे पावर लूम भी हो सकते हैं। हमें उसको प्रोत्साहित करना चाहिये। हमें इस बात का भी ख्याल करना चाहिये कि वार के समय, किसी इमरजेंसी (आपात) के समय, कहीं हमारी इंडस्ट्रीज (उद्योग) कलैप्स (ठप्प) न हो जायें। बल्कि हमको इस दृष्टि से काम करना है कि हमारे यहां कोई भी इमरजेंसी हो, वार हो, लेकिन हमारी इंडस्ट्रीज बाकायदा चलती रहें—जैसा कि सोवियत रूस ने किया, जैसा कि अब चाइना कर रहा है। चाइना बड़े बड़े शहर नहीं बना रहा है। वह देश भर में छोटे छोटे इंडस्ट्रियल टाउन्ज (औद्योगिक नगरियों) को फैला रहा है, ताकि अगर एक जगह का पतन हो तो भी दूसरी जगह का कार्य चलता रहे और उससे हमारी रक्षा हो सके। अगर आप भी इस बात का प्रयास करेंगे, तो आप भारतवर्ष की वास्तविक सेवा करेंगे, जनता की वास्तविक सेवा करेंगे और भारतवर्ष की एक बड़े खतरे से रक्षा कर सकेंगे।

अन्त में मैं फिर मंत्री महोदय से निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि वह देश भर के गांवों में चीप पावर उपलब्ध करने की व्यवस्था करें और उसके रेट्स में यूनिफार्मिटी (एकरूपता) करें—जो रेट बम्बई या कलकत्ता में हों, वही बनारस, इलाहाबाद और अल्मोड़ा में भी हों। यह बात थोड़ी असंभव तो प्रतीत होती है, लेकिन अगर वह प्रयास करेंगे तो यह असम्भव सम्भव में परिणत हो सकता है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं माननीय मंत्री को फिर इस बिल को यहां पर लाने के लिये धन्यवाद देता हूं।

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Sir, the Electricity (Supply) Act is not a very old provision of law. It came into being in 1948 and it has done tremendous mischief at various places where it has been brought into force. However, this is a welcome provision of law, inasmuch as, on the one hand, it allows the industrialists to earn something while on the other it does not allow them to fatten themselves at the cost of the public. A *via media* has been struck by the provisions of section 57 of the Act. To my mind, it appears that this amendment has not been brought with a desire to help anybody but with the desire to have greater control of the Government over the undertakings.

We have watched the working of the District Municipalities Act. According to the phraseology of the various provisions in that Act, if the Government is of the opinion that a particular member has done something which would amount to the abuse of his powers as a member of the municipality, that opinion is sufficient to make the Government order his removal. This provision of law has been universally applied wherever Members of the opposition had the misfortune of getting themselves elected to the municipalities. It happened at various places. It happened at Mathura, it happened at Ghazibad, and other places too. Similar provision has been made in clause 5 of this Bill. It reads:

> "(e) in the opinion of the State Government—(i) has refused to act....."

Four factors are mentioned here. It is merely a political game. All these four factors mentioned there, which will lead to the removal or suspension of a member, are justiciable factors. Why should it be left to the 'opinion' of the Government? This is not a law of detention where you suspect a man of having done a particular thing. Why not say: "If a person has refused to act or has become incapable of acting or so abused his position...."? Why should you say 'in the opinion of the State Government.....'? Even without having the opinion of the Government these are facts which can always be decided upon, and certainly, remove the man if he has done such a thing. But do not have the opinion of the Government which is the opinion of, probably, a district volunteer of the Congress party or a tahsil volunteer of the place. In my opinion, such provisions of law do not speak well of democracy. These are merely remnants of the British time and must be done away with. Too much of power in the hands of Government to interfere with autonomous bodies of this nature is detrimental to the progress of the country. Therefore, such provisions should be taken out of a law which is to be made for the benefit of the public.

I will say a few words with reference to the provisions contained in clause 14 which makes certain amendments in section 57 of the Indian Electricity Supply Act. On the one hand, the old Act provided that as soon as that Act came into force, notwithstanding any provision of any agreement or terms of a licence, the provisions of the Sixth and Seventh Schedules shall automatically apply and replace the other provisions. But, there was a little protection given. The Schedules will apply but all those other provisions of the licence will not automatically become void unless and until they were, in any manner, contrary to the provisions of the Schedules. I find that that provision is taken out of this Bill. So some protection that may be found in the various agreements or the licences in favour of the consumers goes by the board by this provision.

> "The provisions of the Sixth Schedule and the Seventh Schedule shall be deemed to be incorporated in the licence of every licensee, not being a local authority...."

Shri Nanda: What is the clause to which reference is being made?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: Clause 14.

Another section is being added and that is 57A. This is the provision regarding the appointment of the rating committee. It says:

> "(a) the Board or where no Board is constituted under this Act, the State Government—
>
> (i) may, if satisfied that the licensee has failed to comply with any of the provisions of the Sixth Schedule; and
>
> (ii) shall, when so requested by the licensee in writing or when the licensee has given notice to the State Government for the enhancement of rates for the supply of electricity under paragraph 1 of the Sixth Schedule and such enhanced rates are not approved by the State Government, constitute a rating committee....."

My contention about this is a very simple one. Every electric supply company is a sort of a manufacturing concern of consumer goods. We may take that electricity is being consumed by the people. There is no provision for the consumers to bring about the formation of the rating committee. The right of the consumers to approach the rating committee or to get a rating committee appointed for a particular locality is not envisaged in this Bill. It is a

[Shri U. M. Trivedi]

great lacuna and that lacuna ought to be removed. A licensee of a particular municipality for supplying electricity is bound to be an influential man. He has methods of exercising that influence; he has methods of welding that influence. He is supplying electricity to one and sundry; and amongst them he also supplies to Government officers. He can also please the party bosses of the locality by not charging them anything, by giving rebates, by tampering with the meter or not nothing the meter and so many other things. It is therefore that those bosses try to act in the interest of this licensee and would not allow any rating committee to come into being because the power to appoint a rating committee is either with the licensee if he feels aggrieved or with the Government or the Board if they are of that opinion. The consumer is one party and the supplier of electricity is the other party. It is a bilateral contract. Out of the two contracting parties one who has got to pay through the nose is not allowed to have a say in the matter. It is my submission, therefore, that a provision must be made that the rating committee shall also be constituted if—make it a reasonable number, 20, 30 or 50 or 5 or 10 per cent of the total—a number of consumers approach the Government for the appointment of the rating committee. This lacuna must be attended to.

There is one provision of a similar nature—I do not find much change in it—in sub-clause (d) of this 57A. It is this provision which has created great trouble at several places. The wording of this provision is:—

> "within one month after the receipt of the report under the clause (c), the State Government shall cause the report to be published in the Official Gazette, and may at the same time make an order in accordance therewith fixing the licensee's charges for the supply of electricity with effect from such date...."

The word is 'may'. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, you are a lawyer of great repute and had been a Judge of a High Court. So, I appeal to you that some change should be made in the language used here. Because I have seen State Governments sitting over the reports submitted to them and not publishing them according to this provision. Then, when everything is satisfied, when some hand-to-hand things have gone on between officers and officers, one fine morning the reports get published. Then, what happens? Even after the reports get published, this word 'may' creates another difficulty. The interpretation that is generally put by the officers is that "we might, when we like, accept the recommendations of the rating committee". It may be after a month, or two months or 4 or 5 months. Although it is not very difficult to interpret it as properly as possible, that is not feasible. That creates great difficulties for the public at large. Therefore, my humble submission is that a proper view should be taken by the Select Committee when it considers this and the word 'may' should be changed into the imperative 'shall' and that will remove so many difficulties.

2.50 P.M.

श्रीमती शिवराजवती नेहरू (जिला लखनऊ—मध्य) : मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करता हूं । इस को लाकर सरकार ने बहुत बड़ी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति की है । बिजली की प्राइवेट कम्पनियों (गैर सरकारी समितियों) में बहुत गड़बड़ी हुआ करती थी, जिस से जनता को बड़ी तकलीफ और कठिनाइयां थीं और उनकी शिकायतों की सुनवाई कोई कम्पनी नहीं करती थी । वह बात आज इस बिल से दूर हो रही है । आज देश के सारे विकास की उन्नति बिजली पर ही निर्भर करती है । लेकिन वह विकास में तभी सहायता कर सकती है जब कि उसका रेट सस्ता हो और आसानी से वह प्राप्त हो सके । पिछले सालों में हमारे प्रान्त में बिजली का रेट बढ़ा दिया गया, साथ ही उसके ऊपर सेल्स

टैक्स (बिक्री कर) भी लिया गया। इसकी बहुत मुखालिफत हुई, काफी एजिटेशन (आंदोलन) भी हुआ, लेकिन कोई सुनवाई नहीं हुई। आज जबकि इतने दिनों बाद हमारे देश में बिजली का काफी विकास हुआ है, बिजली के पावर स्टेशन काफी बढ़ गये हैं, फिर भी बिजली का रेट उतना ही है, उस में कोई कमी नहीं हुई है। मेरी तो सरकार से यह प्रार्थना है कि अगर किसी कारण से कहीं पर बिजली का रेट (दर) बढ़ा भी दिया गया है तो कभी उसको कम भी तो किया जाय। सरकार की यह अजीब भावना है कि जब वह स्वयम् किसी चीज का रेट बढ़ाती है, तो उसमें बहुत आसानी होती है, परन्तु वह कम कभी नहीं किया जाता है। रेट बढ़ने की वजह से प्राइवेट कम्पनियों (गैर सरकारी समवाय) हैं वह फायदा उठाती हैं, क्योंकि अभी तक जो हमारे बिजली के कानून हैं उनमें काफी छिद्र और लूपहोल्स (त्रुटियां) थें। उनकी वजह से प्राइवेट कम्पनियों में काफी गड़बड़ हुआ करती थी। मेरा तो सरकार को यह सुझाव है जो बड़ी-बड़ी इन्डस्ट्रीज हैं, जो बड़े बड़े कलकारखाने हैं उन के लिये रेट कुछ बढ़ भी जाये बिजली का तो कोई हानि नहीं है, परन्तु जो हमारी स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज (छोटे पैमाने के उद्योग) काटेज इण्डस्ट्रीज (कुटीर उद्योग) हैं या जो हमारे डोमेस्टिक परपजेज (घरेलू प्रयोजन) के लिये बिजली दी जाती है, उस का रेट सरकार जरूर कम करे। साथ ही सारे देश में समानता का रेट होना चाहिए, जैसा कि मेरे सभी भाइयों ने कहा है। वह न हो कि एक शहर में तो ६ पैसा यूनिट हों, दूसरे में ४ आ० यूनिट हो, तीसरे में ६ आ० या ८ आ० यूनिट हो। इस के मुताल्लिक भी मैं अपने भाइयों की आवाज में आवाज मिला कर कहती हूं कि सारे देश में बिजली का रेट एक समान होना चाहिये।

यह कहा जाता है कि रेटिंग कमेटी (दर समिति) बनाई जाय—इस विधेयक में कंज्यूमर्स के इन्टरेस्ट्स (हित) को नहीं देखा गया है। मैं तो समझती हूं कि आज सभी कंज्यूमर्स (उपभोक्ता) हैं। कौन ऐसा है जो बिजली का इस्तैमाल नहीं करता है, विशेषकर जो हमारी सेलेक्ट कमेटी में लोग हैं वह तो सभी कंज्यूमर्स हैं, और वे कंज्यूमर्स (उपभोक्ता) के इन्टरेस्ट (हित) को जरूर देखेंगे और उनकी रक्षा करेंगे। इसलिये जो रेट लगाये जायें वे ऐसे हों जो हमारे देश के विकास के लिये फायदेमन्द हों, और जो कंज्यूमर्स हैं वे आसानी से उनको दे सकें। साथ ही सरकार को भी उससे कुछ लाभ हो, नुक्सान न हो। यदि ऐसा किया गया तो बहुत उचित होगा।

इतना ही कह कर मैं इस बिल का स्वागत करती हूं।

श्री झुनझुनवाला (भागलपुर—मध्य) : यह जो विधेयक रक्खा गया है वह बहुत उपयोगी है और इस समय लाना ही चाहिये था। जब हम अपने देश की हर प्रकार से उन्नति कर रहे हैं, तो इसका उपाय भी जरूर सोचना चाहिये था कि हम को पावर सस्ती से सस्ती मिले। इसके लिये इस बिल में कई प्रकार की चेष्टायें की गई हैं। परन्तु जो कुछ भी चेष्टायें की गई हैं उस से नतीजा यह निकाला गया है कि इस समय बिजली की दर में जो कमी होगी वह ३·२५ परसेन्ट (प्रतिशत) होगी। उन्होंने कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन एक तरफ रक्खा है और दूसरी तरफ नफे को निश्चित कर दिया गया है कि ५ १।२ परसेन्ट से अधिक नफा कोई भी व्यापारी नहीं कर सकेगा। और इस हिसाब से बिजली का यह रेट होगा। इस बात के ऊपर मझे यह कहना है कि सरकार ने हर एक व्यवसाय में यह जानने की बहुत चेष्टा की कि किस को कितना नफा होता है, परन्तु सरकार इस बारे में एक दम से असफल हुई है। शकर मिलों में भी ऐसी चेष्टा की गई थी। यह कहा गया था कि शकर मिल वाले केन की प्राइस इतनी दें और उनको इतना नफा लेना चाहिये। परन्तु वे किस प्रकार से काफी नफे को बढ़ा देते हैं और किस तरह से उसको सामने दिखला देते हैं इस को पकड़ना मुश्किल हो जाता है।

[श्री झुनझुनवाला]

हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने तीन-चार बातें बतलाई। जैसे यह कि डिबेन्चर (ऋणपत्र) के ऊपर जो सूद लिया जाता है उसमें दोहरी इनकम मिलती है, इस को दूर कर दिया गया, यह बहुत अच्छी बात है, परन्तु ५ १।२ परसेन्ट में भी आप के लिये यह जानना बहुत जरूरी हो जाता है कि ५ १।२ परसेन्ट ही नफा हुआ या कि उससे अधिक हुआ। लेकिन इस चीज का पकड़ना आप के लिये बहुत दुर्लभ हो जाता है। मैं तो यह सुझाव दूंगा कि आप बिजली का रेट तय कर दें कि हम तुम को लाइसेंस (अनुज्ञप्ति) देते हैं, तुम को इस भाव पर बिजली देनी पड़ेगी। तुम चाहे ५ परसेन्ट नफ़ा लो चाहे १०० परसेन्ट लो या २०० परसेन्ट लो। अगर वह ज्यादा नफ़ा करते हैं तो आप आगे चल कर फिर उनको पकड़ लें और कहें कि तुम इतना रेट कम करो। लकिन अगर आप यह कहते हैं कि तुम ५ १।२ परसेन्ट नफ़ा लो तो आप उन को पकड़ नहीं सकेंगे कि उन को ५ १।२ परसेन्ट नफ़ा होता है या १५ और २० परसेन्ट।

यह बात हो सकती है कि आप कहेंगे कि वे लोग कम से कम खर्च करें और कम से कम कीमत में बिजली को प्रोड्यूस (उत्पादन) करें। लेकिन इसमें जो मजदूर हैं, जो काम करने वाले हैं, उनको ही व लोग कम देंगे और उनका पेट काटेंगे। मैं कभी नहीं कहूंगा कि उनका पेट काटा जाय। आप को यह भी तय कर देना चाहिये कि मजदूर को क्या मिले। जब आप लाइसेंस दें तो उसी वक्त कह दें कि लाइसेंस उसी को दिया जायेगा जो मजदूरों को इतनी दर से मजदूरी दे सकेगा? मेरी समझ में यदि आप इतना कर देंगे और उसी बेसिस (आधार) पर लाइसेंस देंगे तो आप को बिजली कम कीमत में मिलेगी। देश में बिजली से चलने वाले बहुत से कारखाने हैं। सबों में सरकार ने चेष्टा की कि इतना तो कारखाने वाले को नफा हो और इतना उसका रेट होना चाहिये, परन्तु मेरी समझ में किसी व्यवसाय में भी उस को सफलता नहीं मिली। आप काटन मिल को लीजिये, कोई मिल लीजिये, कहीं पर भी सरकार नहीं पकड़ सकी, कोई भी नहीं पकड़ सकेगा। कोई भी आप की रेटिंग कमेटी (दर समिति) हो, उस पर कंज्यूमर्स (उपभोक्ता) का इंटरेस्ट (हित) रिप्रेजेन्टड (प्रतिनिधित्व) हो, कुछ भी हो, लेकिन कोई कुछ नहीं कर सकेगा। आप को यह तय कर देना चाहिये कि कम से कम इस भाव में तुम को बिजली देनी पड़ेगी और मजदूरों को इतनी मजदूरी देनी पड़गी, तुम्हारी इच्छा हो लाइसेंस लो, न इच्छा हो न लो। यदि आप इस तरह से करेंगे तो मेरी समझ में बहुत कम कीमत में बिजली मिल सकती है।

दूसरी बात जो हमारे सभी भाइयों ने कही है, और हमारी सरकार का जो उद्देश्य है, वह क्या है? वह उद्देश्य यह है कि छोटे-छोटे धंधे हमारे यहां बढ़ें, गांवों में और शहरों में सभी जगह छोटे धन्धे पनपें।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि छोटे छोटे उद्योग धंधों का जो खर्चा होगा, जो कास्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन होगा वह अधिक हो जाएगा। यह जो छोटे छोटे धंधे हैं इनके लिए पहले तो खड़ा होना ही मुश्किल होता है और जब मर मर कर उनको खड़ा कर लिया जाता है तो जिन चीजों का उन के द्वारा उत्पादन होता है, उनकी कीमत भी ज्यादा होती है। उनको आप यह कह देते हैं कि जिस चीज को तुमने उत्पादित किया है वह बेशी दाम में पड़ी है और हमें तो सस्ती चाहिये और अच्छी चीज चाहिये। आप जरा इसका भी तो ख्याल कीजिये कि बम्बई में जो बड़े बड़े कारखाने हैं, उनको आप किस भाव बिजली सप्लाई करते हैं और देहातों में आप किस भाव पर सप्लाई (संभरण) करते हैं। इस भाव के आधार पर यदि आप देखें तो

आप को पता चलेगा कि कुदरती तौर पर जो गांव में चीज तैयार होती है उसका कास्ट आफ प्रोडकशन ज्यादा होता है। आप शहरों को ही लीजिये। इस बात को मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के ध्यान में खास तौर से लाना चाहता हूं। शहरों में भी जो छोटा काम करेगा, उसको उसी शहर में बिजली का खर्चा ज्यादा देना पड़ेगा और जो बड़ा काम करेगा उसको कम देना पड़ेगा। यहां पर भी एक स्केल होता है कि यदि कोई फैक्ट्री इतनी बिजली कनज्यूम (उपभोग) करेगी तो उसको इतना खर्चा और इस हिसाब से देना होगा। अगर वह ज्यादा पावर कन्ज्यूम करेगी तो उसको उसी हिसाब से खर्चा भी कम देना पडेगा यानी पांच पैसा या चार पैसा या दो पैसा। लेकिन अगर कोई आदमी हैंडलूम (हथकरघा) लेकर बैठेगा और पावर लूम से काम करेगा तो चूंकि वह कम बिजली या पावर कनज्यूम कर पायेगा इस वास्ते उसे तीन आना या इससे भी ज्यादा के हिसाब से देना पड़ेगा। मैं चाहता हूं इस ओर माननीय मंत्री जी खास तौर से ध्यान दें। मैं चाहता हूं कि जो लोग कम बिजली कनज्यूम करते हैं और उनसे जिस रेट पर बिजली का खर्चा चार्ज किया जाता है, उस में कमी होनी चाहिए। इस बात का बिजली सप्लाई करने वालों को ध्यान नहीं रखना चाहिए कि चूंकि कोई आदमी ज्यादा बिजली कनज्यूम करता है इस वास्ते उससे कम चार्ज किया जाए और दूसरा आदमी क्योंकि थोड़ी बिजली कनज्यूम करता है इस वास्ते उससे ज्यादा चार्ज किया जाए। आप किसी भी इंडस्ट्री को ले लीजिये, साबुन की इंडस्ट्री को ही ले लीजिये। उसमें भी ऐसा ही होता है। अब जो थोड़ा माल तैयार करने वाला आदमी है, चूंकि उसको ज्यादा खर्चा देना पड़ता है, इस लिए नैचुरली उसकी चीज की जो कास्ट आफ प्रोड्कशन होंगी वह ज्यादा होगी और उसके लिए बड़े प्रोड्यूसर (उत्पादक) सेकम्पीट (प्रतियोगिता) करना मुश्किल हो जाएगा। एक तो वैसे ही उसका जो कास्ट आफ प्रोडकशन (उत्पादन लागत) होता है वह ज्यादा होता है, लेकिन चूंकि बिजली के दाम भी उसे ज्यादा देने पड़ते हैं, इस लिये उसका कास्ट आफ प्रोडकशन और भी बढ़ जाता है। इस वास्ते अगर आप स्माल स्केल इंडस्ट्रीज का कुछ फायदा करना चाहत हैं, तो आपको उनको उसी दाम पर बिजली देनी होगी जिस दाम पर कि आप बड़े कारखाने वालों को देते हैं और फिर चाहे यह देहात के बारे में हो, चाहे शहर के बारे में।

3 P.M.

एक और बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि देहाती इलाकों में बिजली पहुंचाने का जो लाइसेंस लेगा उसको बिजली सप्लाई करने में ज्यादा खर्चा पड़ेगा। इसके लिये एक सुझाव टंडन जी ने दिया है और मैं उसे ठीक ही मानता हूं। सुझाव यह है कि जहां पर बिजली का खर्चा अधिक पड़ता है वहां पर आप कुछ रिबेट दीजिये जिस तरह से कि आप खादी के लिये देते हैं। तो जहां पर बिजली सप्लाई करने का खर्चा अधिक पड़ता है उसको कम करने के लिये आप उन जगहों पर जहां पर खर्चा कम पड़ता है कुछ टेक्स लगा दीजिये और रेट्स को एक तरह से ईक्वेलाइज कर दीजिये। जब आप इस तरह से करेंगे तो मैं समझता हूं जो देहात में चीज तय्यार होती है, वह शहर में बनी चीज के साथ अच्छी तरह से कम्पीट कर सकेगी।

यह तो मैंने उन कम्पनीज के बारे में कहा जो प्राइवेट तौर पर बिजली पैदा करती हैं। अब मैं जो सरकार द्वारा बिजली पैदा की जाती है उसके बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूं। मैं चाहता हूं सरकार के द्वारा जो बिजली पैदा की जाती है उसका खर्चा भी कम हो। मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा कि दूसरे मुल्कों में, जैसे अमरीका है, इंग्लैंड है तथा रूस है उनमें जो बिजली पैदा की जाती ह उसका कितना खर्चा पड़ता है और जो यहां की जाती है उस पर क्या खर्चा पड़ता है। इस के बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछ रहा था लेकिन उन्हों ने कहा कि हमारे

[श्री झुनझुनवाला]

पास फिगर्स नहीं हैं । अब जब मंत्री महोदय उत्तर दें तो मैं चाहता हूं कि वह इस चीज पर भी रोशनी डालें । मैं चाहता हूं मंत्री महोदय यह भी बतायें कि दूसरे मुल्कों में इंडस्ट्रीज को जो बिजली सप्लाई की जाती है वह किस रेट पर सप्लाई की जाती है और हमारे मुल्क में किस रेट पर सप्लाई की जाती है । अभी हमारी बहन रेणु चक्रवर्ती कह रही थीं कि वह बोकारो वगैरह में गई थी और उनको पता चला कि बहुत ज्यादा खर्चा आ रहा है । आप जब प्राइवेट कम्पनियों से यह एक्सपेक्ट (आशा) करते हैं कि वे कम खर्चा कर तो आपको खुद भी देखना चाहिए कि आपके द्वारा जो बिजली उत्पादित होती है उसका खर्चा भी कम हो

आखिरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि यदि आपको इंडस्ट्रीयल प्रोग्रैस करना है तो आपको इस बात का ध्यान रखना होगा कि आप उनको बिजली सस्ते दामों पर दें । आप एल्यूमीनियम की इंडस्ट्री को ही ले लीजिए । बिजली पर ही इस इंडस्ट्री को काफी ज्यादा खर्चा देना पड़ता है और अगर आप इसको सस्ती बिजली सप्लाई करें तो आप देखेंगे कि एक तो यह सस्ती चीजें प्रोड्यूस करेंगी और दूसरे इसकी बनाई हुई चीजें विदेशों में दूसरी चीजों के मुकाबले में ठहर सकेंगी । इस वास्ते अगर आप चाहते हैं कि हमारे यहां उद्योग धंधे बढ़ें तो आपको सस्ती बिजली सप्लाई करने का प्रबन्ध करना चाहिए । इसका एक नतीजा यह भी होगा कि हमारे यहां की बनी हुई चीज दूसरे मुल्कों में बनी हुई चीजों के साथ कम्पीट कर सकेंगी ।

अन्त में मैं आशा करता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय जो सुझाव मैंने दिए हैं उन पर विचार करेंगे और उन को अमल में लाने की कोशिश करेंगे ।

श्री नारायण दास (दरभंगा–मध्य) : इस वाद-विवाद में जो बातें माननीय सदस्यों ने कही हैं, उन पर मैं नहीं जाऊंगा । जो सुझाव प्रस्तुत किये गये हैं, मैं आशा करता हूं, उनको ध्यान में रखकर प्रवर समिति इस बिल में कुछ सुधार अवश्य करेगी ।

सब से पहली बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस विधेयक में यह बताया गया है कि इस विधेयक का मुख्य उद्देश्य यह है कि सन् १९४८ के विद्युत सप्लाई कानून को व्यवहार में लाने से जो कठिनाइयां अनुभव की गई हैं या जो विरोधाभास देखने में आए हैं, उनको दूर करने के लिए ही इसको पेश किया गया है । इस में यह भी कहा गया है कि एक अन्तर्राज्यीय सम्मेलन हुआ था जिस में बिजली उत्पादन करने वाली जो कम्पनियां हैं उनके प्रतिनिधि और राज्य सरकारों के प्रतिनिधि और जो राज्यों के बोर्डस हैं, परिषदें हैं, उनके प्रतिनिधि इसमें आये थे । उन लोगों के विचार विमर्श के बाद जो तय हुआ उसी के फलस्वरूप यह विधेयक इस सदन के सामने रखा गया है । मैं समझता हूं यह अच्छा होता कि इस सम्मेलन के सम्मुख जो विचारार्थ विषय रखे गये थे और जो विचार विनिमय उसमें हुआ, उसका सारांश इस सदन के सदस्यों को सप्लाई कर दिया गया होता । उसके आधार पर हम इस विधेयक पर विचार कर सकते थे और उससे फायदा उठाकर अपने संशोधन प्रवर समिति के विचारार्थ प्रस्तुत कर सकते थे । लेकिन सरकार की ओर से उस सम्मेलन के सम्बन्ध में केवल यही बताया गया है कि उस सम्मेलन में विचार विनिमय के दौरान जो बातें सामने आईं, उन्हीं के आधार पर यह विधेयक तैयार किया गया है । अब मैं यह चाहूंगा कि जब यह विधेयक प्रवर समिति से वापस आये तो हमारी जो सैंट्रल इलैक्टरीसिटी आथोरिटी है, उसका क्या अनुभव रहा है, उसका एक सारांश माननीय सदस्यों को दिया जाए ताकि उसके आधार पर हम अपने कुछ विचार बना सकें । पहला सुझाव मैं इस सदन के सम्मुख यही प्रस्तुत करना चाहता था और

में आशा करता हूं माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस पर विचार करेंगे और उस सम्मेलन के विचार विनिमय के दौरान जो जो मुख्य बातें सामने आईं उनका एक सारांश सदस्यों को उपलब्ध करेंगे ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जहां तक मैं समझ पाया हूं इसके जो अधिकारी हैं उनमें पहले तो जो प्रमुख हैं वह सैंट्रल गवर्नमैंट है, दूसरी सैंट्रल इलैक्ट्रिसिटी आथोरिटी (केन्द्रीय विद्युत प्राधिकारी) है, तीसरी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स हैं, चौथे स्टेट इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्डस (राज्य विद्युत बोर्ड) हैं । उसके बाद उत्पादन करने वाली कुछ तो स्थानीय संस्थायें ही हैं जोकि अपने आप लाइसेंस ले लेती हैं और साथ ही साथ प्राइवेट कम्पनियां (गैर सरकारी समवाय) हैं जो कि बिजली उत्पादन का काम करती हैं । सभी माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है कि राष्ट्र के जीवन में—विशेषकर आज की अवस्था में—बिजली का क्या स्थान है । उस का उपयोग केवल प्रकाश देने के लिए ही नहीं होता है, देश की आर्थिक और औद्योगिक उन्नति के लिए हर एक क्षेत्र और हर एक अवस्था में उस की आवश्यकता बहुत बढ़ गई है । यह अच्छा ही हुआ कि १९४८ में बिजली के उत्पादन, वितरण, व्यवहार तथा तत्सम्बन्धी नियंत्रण इत्यादि के लिए इस तरह के अधिकारियों की विभिन्न स्तरों पर स्थापना की गई, लेकिन जहां तक मैं समझ पाया हूं, यह एक ऐसा विषय है, जिस में विकेन्द्रीयकरण का सिद्धान्त बहुत दूर तक लागू नहीं किया जा सकता है, क्योंकि बिजली एक ऐसी चीज है, जिस का सारे देश में विभिन्न कामों में उपयोग होता है । यदि केन्द्र से ही उस के उत्पादन और वितरण आदि पर नियंत्रण हो, तो अच्छा है, लेकिन साथ ही साथ हम को यह भी देखना होगा कि—और उस का उल्लेख कई माननीय सदस्यों ने किया भी है—ऊपर से ले कर नीचे तक के अधिकारियों की स्थापना के बाद भी हमारे यहां उत्पादित बिजली की कीमतें विभिन्न प्रदेशों में, विभिन्न स्थानों में, विभिन्न हैं । अभी तक कोई ऐसा उपाय नहीं निकाला जा सका है, जिस से इस विभिन्नता को कम से कम किया जा सके । उदाहरण के तौर पर मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में सिंचाई के लिए पानी उपलब्ध करने के लिए नलकूपों की व्यवस्था की गई है, लेकिन उस पानी की कीमत इतनी ज्यादा है कि कृषक उस से ज्यादा फायदा नहीं उठा सकते हैं । उस पानी की प्राप्त करने में मुख्यत: बिजली का इस्तेमाल होता है और बिजली के रेट्स बहुत ऊंचे होने के कारण पानी का दाम बहुत बढ़ जाता है । जहां तक मैं समझ पाया हूं, पानी के दाम बहुत ऊंचे होने में सब से जबर्दस्त फैक्टर उस सम्बन्ध में प्रयुक्त होने वाली बिजली का दाम है ।

आज गांवों में बताया जाता है कि हम ग्रामोद्योगों को चलाने के लिए बिजली देना चाहते हैं । देहात के लोग भी अलग अलग कामों के लिए बिजली की आवश्यकता महसूस करते हैं और बिजली लेना चाहते हैं, लेकिन मुश्किल यह है कि जहां दिल्ली में प्रकाश और शक्ति के लिए क्रमश: तीन आना और डेढ़ आना प्रति यूनिट चार्ज किया जाता है, वहां, जैसा कि मुझे एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया गया था, विभिन्न प्रान्तों में सिंचाई के लिये बने बिजली के कारखानों द्वारा उत्पन्न बिजली देहातों में साढ़े आठ आना, नौ आना प्रति यूनिट के हिसाब से सप्लाई की जाती है ! दूसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना में हम ग्रामोद्योगों पर विशेष जोर दे रहे हैं, लेकिन यह कितने आश्चर्य की बात है कि उन उद्योगों के लिए बिजली इतने ऊंचे रेट पर दी जा रही है । आखिर इस बात का क्या कारण है कि दिल्ली में बिजली डेढ़ आने और तीन आने प्रति यूनिट की दर से उपलब्ध की जाती है और देहात में साढ़े आठ आने, नौ आने की दर से ? मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि यह कहां तक उचित है ।

यह जो संशोधन करने वाला विधेयक हमारे सामने आया है, उस के विषय से मेरा कोई विरोध नहीं है । उस का मैं अभिनंदन

[श्री श्री नारायण दास]

करता हूं। मेरा कहना केवल यह है कि १९४८ के विद्युत सप्लाई कानून को व्यवहार में लाने के बाद जो अनुभव हम को प्राप्त हुआ है, उस के आधार पर हम यह संशोधन करने जा रहे हैं। अच्छा होता कि हम इस बात पर भी विचार करते कि देश के विभिन्न प्रान्तों में बिजली का दर जो बहुत बढ़ा हुआ है, उस को हम कैसे रैशनलाइज कर सकते हैं और इस सम्बन्ध में अगर सभा के सामने कोई योजना रखी जाती, तो अच्छा होता। मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि जब यह विधेयक प्रवर समिति से वापिस आयेगा तो माननीय मंत्री जी इस सम्बन्ध में कोई योजना या सुझाव रखेंगे और इस सभा को विश्वास दिलायेंगे कि जल्द से जल्द सरकार कोई ऐसी योजना तैयार करेगी जिससे देहात के लोगों को सिंचाई, रोशनी और ग्रामोद्योगों के लिए जो बिजली दी जायेगी, उस का दाम बहुत जल्द अधिक से अधिक कम किया जायेगा, ताकि गांव के लोग इससे विशेष फायदा उठा सकें।

१९४८ के एक्ट में इस बात का जिक्र किया गया है कि अगर राज्य सरकारें चाहें, तो वे बोर्ड के अलावा एक कौंसिल की स्थापना कर सकेंगी, जिस में विभिन्न स्वार्थों के लोगों का रिप्रेजेन्टेशन (प्रतिनिधित्व) होगा। मुझे मालूम नहीं है कि किन किन राज्यों में इस प्रकार की कौंसिल्ज (परिषद्) की स्थापना हो चुकी है और उस कौंसिल की राय का उपयोग किया जाता है। जहां तक मुझे ज्ञात है, बिहार राज्य में इस प्रकार की कोई कौंसिल स्थापित नहीं की गई है। मुझे स्वयं तजुर्बा है कि मेरे निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र के बहुत से लोग बिजली का उपयोग करना चाहते हैं, लेकिन बिजली प्राप्त करने में उन को बड़ी कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है। कभी अथारिटी के कारखानों में बिजली नहीं होती है—वे कहते हैं कि हमारे यहां बिजली का उत्पादन काफ़ी नहीं है कि हम लोगों को दे सकें—और कभी दूसरी कठिनाइयां सामने आती हैं। जब कभी कम्बनी देने के लिए तैयार होती है, तो बोर्ड के आफ़िस में आने जाने में महीनों लग जाते हैं और फिर भी काम नहीं पूरा होता है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यह बुराई केवल इसी विभाग में ही नहीं है।

श्री नन्दा : माननीय सदस्य किस जगह की बात कर रहे हैं ?

श्री श्रीनारायण दास : मैं बिहार की बात कर रहा हूं।

श्री नन्दा : लेकिन बिहार में तो बोर्ड नहीं है।

श्री श्रीनारायण दास : वहां पर जो अथारिटी है—बिहार गवर्नमेंट का जो इलैक्ट्रिसिटी डिपार्टमेंट है, मैं उस की बात कर रहा हूं।

श्री नन्दा : वह तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का डिपार्टमेंट है।

श्री श्रीनारायण दास : मैं कह रहा था कि अगर उद्योग-धंधे के लिए या प्रेस के लिए बिजली की आवश्यकता हो, तो छः छः महीने तक प्रयत्न करने पर भी बिजली नहीं मिलती है। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि यह बुराई केवल इस बिजली विभाग में ही नहीं है, जो कोई काम जनता की तरफ से उठाया जाता है, उस के पूरा होने में सरकारी महकमों और अफ़सरों के यहां बहुत तरद्दद का सामना करना पड़ता है।

यदि और कामों में इस प्रकार की कठिनाई हो, तो अलग बात है, लेकिन विकास के कामों में इस तरह देर होना और कठिनाइयां सामने आने पर बड़ा खेद होता है। अगर गांवों में ग्रामोद्योग चलाने में, स्कूल खोलने में, और पुस्तकालय खोलने में दिक्कत हो, तो यह उचित नहीं है। कहा जाता है कि विकास के कामों में जनता का सहयोग लेना चाहिए। जनता तो सहयोग देने के लिए तैयार है, लेकिन जो वर्तमान फ़ाइनेन्शियल रूल्ज एंड रैगुलेशन्ज हैं,

जो प्रोसीजर है, अफ़सरों का जो व्यवहार है, उससे विकास का काम करने वाला उत्साहित नहीं होता है। छोटे छोटे काम के लिए उस को दफ्तर का दस पंद्रह बार चक्कर लगाना पड़ता है। इसलिए निराश हो कर वह उस काम को छोड़ देता है। इस बात का पूरा प्रयत्न करना चाहिए कि जिस काम से विकास को प्रोत्साहन मिले, उस में कम से कम कठिनाई हो। मेरी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी (निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र) के लोगों ने कहा कि बिजली के मिलने में कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है। उस का क्या कारण है, उस के विवरण में मैं नहीं जाऊंगा। इस के बहुत से कारण हैं। जो बुराई सर्वत्र व्याप्त है, हो सकता है कि वह इस विभाग में भी हो।

इस बिल में एक प्राविजन (उपबंध) यह किया गया है कि राज्य सरकार को नीति-निर्धारण पर पूरा अधिकार होगा। उस को बोर्ड की कार्यवाही पर भी नियंत्रण करने का अधिकार होगा। मैं इस प्राविजन का हृदय से समर्थन करता हूं और उम्मीद करता हूं कि इस प्राविजन के पास हो जाने के बाद राज्य सरकारें बोर्ड के ऊपर नियंत्रण रख कर आगे बढ़ेंगी। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जहां पर बोर्ड नहीं है—जैसा कि कहा गया है कि बिहार में नहीं है—क्या वहां के बारे में सैंट्रल अथारिटी ने जानकारी हासिल करने की कोशिश की कि बोर्ड की स्थापना क्यों नहीं की गई है।

श्री नन्दा : उन्होंने मंजूर कर लिया है और वह बनाने वाले हैं।

श्री श्रीनारायण दास : मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि सैंट्रल अथारिटी इस मामले में विशेष रूप से जागरूक रहे कि स्टेट का महकमा, बोर्ड वगैरह जनता के हित के लिए कार्य करे।

श्री म० प्र० मिश्र (मुंगेर—उत्तर-पश्चिम): तो फिर प्राविंशियल एटानोमी क्या हुई ?

श्री श्रीनारायण दास : माननीय सदस्य कहते हैं कि प्राविंशियल एटानोमी (प्रांतीय स्वायत्त शासन) क्या हुई। मैं एटानोमी केवल प्राविंसिज को ही नहीं, हर पंचायत को भी देना चाहता हूं, लेकिन हम को सब पहलुओं को देख कर ही व्यवस्था करनी पड़ती है। अगर केन्द्र का कुछ नियंत्रण रहे, तो कोई अनुचित बात नहीं है। मैं समझता हूं कि बिजली के उत्पादन और वितरण पर केन्द्र का नियंत्रण रहे और वह जनता की भलाई के लिए हो। मेरे विचार में इस विषय में केन्द्रीय सरकार या केन्द्रीय अधिकारी का नियंत्रण जरूरी है।

मुझे इस बात की वाकफियत नहीं है कि हमारे देश में कहां तक स्थानीय संस्थायें जैसे म्युनिसिपैलिटीज (नगरपालिकाएं) या कार्पोरेशन (निगम) बिजली के उत्पादन के काम को करते हैं। लेकिन मैं चाहूंगा कि सेंट्रल अथारिटी इस बात की जांच करे और देखे कि यह कहां तक सम्भव है कि स्थानीय संस्थाओं को, जैसे म्युनिसिपैलिटियों को और कार्पोरेशनों को बिजली के उत्पादन का और वितरण का काम स्वयं करने का प्रोत्साहन दिया जाये। मैं समझता हूं कि यदि ये स्थानीय संस्थायें इस काम को स्वयं करें तो अच्छा होगा। अभी कुछ मित्रों ने कहा कि म्युनिसिपैलिटियां इस काम का ठेका कम्पनियों को देती हैं जो कि बहुत मुनाफा उठाती हैं। मैं देखता हूं कि अधिक मुनाफा उठाने पर इस बिल में नियंत्रण रखा गया है। अभी तक रीजनेबिल रिटर्न से यदि ३० पर सेंट तक ज्यादा मुनाफा होता था तो कम्पनियां उसका लाभ उठा लेती थीं लेकिन अब इस में यह प्रावीजन किया गया है कि अगर रीजनेबिल रिटर्न से १५ परसेंट से ज्यादा मुनाफा है तो बिजली के दाम में कमी करनी होगी। लेकिन यह अधिक वांछनीय है कि यह काम किसी कम्पनी के हाथ में होने के बजाय स्थानीय संस्थाओं के हाथ में हो, क्योंकि कम्पनी तो निजी फायदे के लिए ही इस काम को करेगी। मैं नहीं समझता कि इस बारे में इस बिल में कोई स्कीम है। लेकिन इसकी छान बीन की जानी चाहिए और यदि स्थानीय

[श्री श्रीनारायण दास]

संस्थायें इस काम को हाथ में ले सकें तो उनको यह काम देना चाहिए ।

इस विधेयक में इस बात पर बहुत जोर दिया गया है कि लाइसेंसी को शेयर कैपीटल पर ३ परसेंट से अधिक डिवीडेंड देने का अधिकार नहीं होगा । मैं समझता हूं कि यह प्रावीजन स्वागत योग्य है । अगर इसको और कम किया जा सकता तो और अच्छा होता ।

जैसा कि मैं कह चुका हूं इस बिल में यह प्रावीजन है कि यदि रीजनेबिल रिटर्न से १५ परसेंट से अधिक मुनाफा होगा तो बिजली का दाम कम किया जायेगा । पहले तो यह था कि कम्पनी रीजनेबिल रिटर्न से ३० परसेंट तक मुनाफा होने पर भी दाम कम नहीं करती थी । लेकिन यह नहीं मालूम होता कि यह किस आधार पर होगा । मेरा सुझाव है कि यह दाम कम करने और बढ़ाने का अधिकार केन्द्रीय सरकार को अपने हाथ में लेना चाहिए ।

यह बहुत खुशी की बात है कि इस बोर्ड के हिसाब किताब की जांच का अधिकार कंट्रोलर और आडीटर जनरल के हाथ में होगा । मैं समझता हूं कि सभा के सभी सदस्य इस का स्वागत करेंगे ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूं और स्वागत करता हूं ।

Shri C. R. Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): I confess that I speak on the spur of the moment. My only excuse for doing so is that the parent Act itself has clearly formulated the objects of this Bill. The parent Act begins as follows:

> "Whereas it is expedient to provide for the rationalisation of the production and supply of electricity, for taking measures conducive to electrical development and for all matters incidental thereto,"

Further, section 3 of the parent Act speaks of a "Constitution of the Central Electricity Authority". That is in conformity with the preamble of the Act. Section 3 of the parent Act says as follows:

> "(i) develop a sound, adequate and uniform national power policy, and particularly to co-ordinate the activities of the planning agencies in relation to the control and utilisation of national power resources;"

Consistent with these objects, I want to make one or two suggestions.

I want the Minister to take steps to see that the whole country is brought under one grid—a uniform grid—as soon as possible. If that is not possible, at least large sections of the country could be brought under one single grid. It is quite possible, for instance, to bring Andhra, Madras, Kerala and Orissa under one grid. In the same way, other contiguous regions of the country could be brought under a grid system. This will lead to better industrialisation and easier methods of making electricity available throughout the country.

Some of my friends were talking about the supply of electricity to the rural areas. Shri Raghunath Singh was quite passionate about it. One of the ways of making electricity available to the rural areas is to develop the windmills project. The research institutions in the country which are run by the Government of India have formally put this as one of the items of examination but nothing tangible has so far emanated. I would appeal to the Government of India and to the Planning Ministry in particular to see that the windmills programme is carried out soon and efficiently. It is quite possible for every village, on a co-operative basis, to own a windmill for the purpose of producing electricity in the village, wherever the windmill scheme is feasible. The sooner the windmills project is taken up, the better.

Shri Biren Dutt (Tripura West): While introducing this Bill, the Minister himself said that he wanted

electricity to spread among the backward and the rural areas. So, in this Bill, there must be some provision to see that in the backward regions, where investigations are carried on, electricity is provided soon. But there is one thing to be remembered. The information supplied by the State Electricity Departments to the Ministry about the requirements of electricity is not always complete, as for instance, in the State of Tripura. Owing to this reason, the work is delayed. 16,000 k.w. of electricity should be produced in a project in Tripura State but the work has not been taken up because the company which is run by the authorities does not know the actual requirements. The Government say that the demand for electricity is not so great there, because they do not have sufficient information from the State Government concerned.

I would like to say that the hydro-electric projects, one in Domboroo and the other in Chuckmaghat should be taken seriously by the Government. But our experience is, because the Tripura State has got displaced persons from East Bengal to the extent of two-thirds of its total population, the Rehabilitation Department is supplying some funds for starting medium-scale industries, and when some amount is given to the local authorities, they say that there is no electricity available for starting the industries. So, the scheme is delayed and sometimes the grant is also delayed. While some schemes are sanctioned to the neighbouring States, the local authorities in my State do not even know these things. During the last five years, the Rehabilitation Department has granted so many schemes and so many schemes have also been returned on the ground that there is no electricity available. There are good prospects for the production of electricity in Tripura. The Minister himself said that 64,000 k.w. of electricity could be produced from the Domboroo falls alone. But then the investigations are carried on so slowly. During the last three years, we find that only Rs. 90,000 or so have been spent so far on this project.

If this Bill intends to spread electricity throughout the rural and backward areas, there must be some provision through which the schemes could be started and expanded. There must be speedy development of electricity in the villages. In Manipur, there are cottage industries which must be developed at least into small-scale industries. But they do not get electricity. When we meet the Minister, we are told that the demand for electricity is small in that area and therefore, nothing can be done hurriedly. There is no question of regulation as such for controlling private companies, but wherever the Government machinery is there, the anomalies should be removed.

I would like to draw particular attention to the provision which deals with the State Electricity Council. The States Reorganisation Bill has been passed and Tripura and Manipur have been placed under the charge of the Central Government. The development of industries, commercial concerns etc., will be under the charge of the Central Government. But there the system of administration is such that the people cannot even represent their needs. We have found that if we give any representation, it is given immediate consideration by the Ministry. But, the machinery through which the whole thing is to be operated is defective and even though the assurance is given, the work does not proceed. So, in those areas which will remain under the Centre—especially Manipur and Tripura—where there are potentialities for the generation of electricity, plants should be built and the power should be utilised for the development of the cottage industries etc. The whole work should be directly administered by the Government.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister.

Shri Nanda: I thought there was more interest in the subject then I find now.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Minister has lost it himself.

Shri Nanda: I was keenly listening to the debate and I was also considering a particular point.

In the first place, I shall take up the points made by Shrimati Renu Chakravartty, who is not here at the moment. She seems to have made a very close study of the provisions of this amending Bill. She expressed her gratification at the number of improvements that are being effected through this amending Bill; she has also got some apprehensions about some aspects of this legislation and she has raised some questions about financial arrangements, the basis for the reasonable return, the formula applied for the purpose of calculating the reasonable return etc. She expressed her view that this formula was complicated and she asked if we could not do something to simplify it. I have gone through the debate which took place at the time the original Act was in the form of a Bill before this House and I find that a very elaborate procedure was adopted for arriving at this formula. Experts were called and after prolonged deliberations, ultimately this formula was arrived at. Although it appears to be complicated, running to several pages, it is not so. It does not mean that, if it were simplified in the sense of compressing it into fewer words, it would actually in practice become simpler. A certain purpose has to be achieved. The purpose is, on the one side the industry should have a fair return, and on the other side, the consumer should not be exploited. For example, the hon. Member made a very simple suggestion: "Pay them on the basis of the paid-up capital, rather than adopt this complicated formula, finding out the capital base, which includes a number of things". The result will be that it will lead to serious consequences. Suppose there is an establishment where most of the capital is derived from the shareholders. There is another undertaking where part of the capital is derived from shareholders and another part, say half, is from loans and debentures. If only the paid-up capital is taken as the basis, an undertaking which has made provision for a large amount of electricity on the basis of these loans cannot have anything at all as return in order to pay for the loans. So, we will have to make allowances for all the other elements of capital, which come from different sources; and, it ceases to be simply paid-up capital. All these things have been taken into consideration and the capital base has been evolved on the principle that we should get at the root of things, namely, what are the assets which are being employed for the purpose of generation of power, what is the capital for the use of the consumer, i.e. the capital which is engaged for the generation of power, which is really the product for which the consumer has to pay. I do not want to go into it at very great length, because all these suggestions are going to be considered in the Select Committee in detail. In a simple way, I have explained how the base is evolved. It is not possible to make it simpler and better, so far as our present experience goes.

The same Member said that if profits are higher, the part of the excess profits goes to inflate the base. We are not concerned with profits or where the money is coming from, so far as the base is concerned. We are only concerned with how much is the book value minus the depreciation and how much is the working capital; we calculate like that. Therefore, it is immaterial where the money comes from. In the particular example cited by the hon.

Member, about the Calcutta Electric Supply Company or Corporation, the figures quoted were not quite accurate. The total capital base is about Rs. 24 lakhs and not Rs. 17 lakhs as the hon. Member said against a paid-up capital of about Rs. 8 lakhs. The real position is that in this case also there is the paid-up capital, there are loans etc., and there is ploughed back investment i.e. capital derived from profits of earlier years. All that goes into the assets which are being utilised for the purpose of generation of power.

I will leave this subject. I come to the other subject which has exercised the minds of hon. Members. Several of them have laid great stress on the need for uniformity. It is certainly a very desirable thing that there should be uniformity. I am sure the hon. Members do not mean that uniformity will apply to all kinds of uses—it is not that, but uniformity in different areas. One of the objects of this legislation is rationalisation. Full rationalisation will lead to that result. There are at present a number of scattered producers with different sizes, different strengths, different conditions, different levels of efficiency and different financial structures. Therefore, the cost per unit is going to be different and so in the present conditions it will not be possible to make it uniform. There is a small diesel engine somewhere, and the cost will be eight times of what it is going to be somewhere else where it is hydro-electric energy or something else. If I ask the producer there to bring it to the level of the lowest, I am only asking him to get out of production. Nobody else can produce cheaper there because of the conditions. And, of course, to make uniformity on the basis of the highest is not the intention. So, this object can be achieved only through a process, through programmes which we have in hand. The intention is that the Electricity Boards will eliminate the small producer, the costly producer. If a large producer produces power in large quantities and has long transmission lines, wherever the transmission lines go, the small station goes out, or it takes the power from this larger supply or gets out and hands over the thing to this Board or to the big supplier who can supply at a cheaper rate. This process cannot be applied at once. This will take time.

There are grids now also. There will be more such grids. There are grids now in Andhra, Mysore, Madras and Travancore-Cochin, and they are inter-connected, so that this direction of progress already has gone forward and I hope that as more Boards are set up, as more schemes are taken up, this process will go ahead fast and some time—I cannot predict when—there will be something like an all-India grid, something like a uniform system. As was pointed out by an hon. Member here the whole purpose of this legislation is to have a uniform, co-ordinated power policy for the conutry and a rational policy for the country. So, this much I have to say about uniformity.

The other question was about the rates, whether they should be lower than what they are, whether they should be lower for certain purposes; why not arrange that cottage industry, agriculture, the tube-wells are able to obtain power at much lower rates in the interests of decentralisation, in the interests of encouragement of agriculture and cottage industries. It is true that at the the moment these rates are very high depending upon the area concerned. Where a Board is dealing with this matter, certainly over the whole area it would be in a position to have uniform rates—of course, the rates differ for different purposes—and therefore all places within the area will have that advantage. But, at the moment till these grids are established, it cannot be helped. The cost will vary, and therefore the cost will be higher in certain areas. The question still remains: why not enable the rural areas to have cheaper power than at present in the same circumstances

[Shri Nanda]

and how can that be done? It is by subsidising. One process is to improve the present procedures which are really obstructing—that is, till some people in an area are able to guarantee that they will be able to take up a sufficient volume to justify all these charges of transmission etc., well, they cannot have it, otherwise the rates are too high. We have looked into this matter. It is necessary that just as there is a promotional aspect in industry, there should be a promotional aspect here also in anticipation of the load developing later on, there should be lower charges now. Then there is another aspect that even after that, on the basis of the business costs it may not be possible to give a reasonable rate. Then the question of subsidy arises. That subsidy may be through the system that when a State or a Board is charging higher rates to urban areas for certain purposes, out of those profits it should be possible to extend the availability of power and lower the rates chargeable for rural purposes and small scale industries. In the same connection about these rates, here was a suggestion that we might not fix the rate of return but fix the rates. Now, how actually will it work out? How do we fix the rates again,—because as I pointed out the costs differ in different places and therefore unless we arrive at the position that we can have a uniform rate in the whole country, the rates vary. How do we calculate?

Shri Reghunath Singh: Take the case of textiles.

Shri Jhunjhunwala: I did not say in relation to uniformity. What I said was that you find out what should be the rate at a particular place and if anybody can produce and supply at such a rate with such and such conditions of giving so much to labour etc., you give him the licence.

Shri Nanda: I have explained this is not practicable. It comes to the same thing. Any authority fixing the rates will see what the costs are—costs not in the air. There is a plant there. If somebody sets it up, then we have to find out the cost of the plant. The machinery varies from time to time, the cost of fuel changes, wages change. For example, an hon. Member pointed out that in Kanpur after the State took over the rates have gone up. It is curious logic, as if because of the change the rates have increased. The rates have increased in a number of other places where no changeover has occurred. And that was because the workers were given higher wages as a result of an award. There were other causes also. These were taken into account, and then the rates were changed.

While I am on this question of rates, I may answer one question relating to the rating committees also. It was asked why they should not be asked to function in response to the demands of the consumers. At present, the provision is that either Government or the licensee can set this machinery into motion. The understanding or the assumption is that Government function on behalf of the consumers. If a considerable number of consumers have represented to Government that the rates are too high, then Government will certainly have the power to appoint a rating committee. But I am not quite sure in my mind whether this is sufficient. So, I think we might possibly consider it further in the Select Committee, whether some kind of a procedure cannot be evolved whereby Government may have to consider the question of appointing a rating committee on the basis of a substantial representation of the consumers. I leave it open, and we might consider it further in the Select Committee.

Then, there is the other question raised by Shri T. N. Singh and some others, that there should be a wider representation on the rating committee than what is provided for here. At present, in the case of the board, there are two members, plus a third

member, who is either a licensee or somebody connected with a Chamber of Commerce; and in the case of a State where there is no Board, there are three members appointed by the State, plus two others. Now, the question is whether something more could not be done, that is to say, whether some extension of this idea of representation may not be applied. I am not yet clear in my mind as to how it can be done. I think we should consider this aspect also.

About production, it was suggested that the whole business of generation of power and supply of energy in the country should be taken over by the Central Government and managed by them. Shri D. C. Sharma said, that this Bill was lopsided, because it looked only to the financial aspects, and the other important aspects had been ignored. He mentioned two points in this connection. One of them was relating to distribution.

As far as distribution is concerned, I would like to point that under section 18 of the Act, this is one of the duties of the board:

> "Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Board shall be charged with the general duty of promoting the co-ordinated development of generation, supply and distribution of electricity."

The scope of the word 'distribution' has to be scrutinised. I am considering how far this question of priorities in regard to distribution has to be dealt with.

I think this is a relevant question When there is a limited supply, and there is not enough to meet the requirements of everybody, there will have to be some kind of priorities. If large-scale industries can make it very easy and profitable for a producer to supply power, then the small-scale industries and the small rural requirements may be neglected, in fact, they have been neglected. We are not grapping with that problem. That is true. We are considering how we can facilitate the consumption of power in rural areas and particularly, by small-scale industries and cottage industries.

We have suggested certain methods of subsidising rural supply, which I have indicated before. If there is some profit in a particular system, it may be diverted to reduce the rural rates. It might also be considered whether any more subsidy can be channelled for this purpose from other sources. For example, we have a provision for the promotion of cottage and small-scale industries. Could not some subsidy out of that source also be made available for this purpose? Or, there is provision for rural development, for helping the small-scale industries, and the agriculturists, for pumping of water and so on. Possibly, something may be done that way also. There are other things also being considered, such as that over a period of five or ten years, we might waive certain liabilities, in regard to the rate of interest. These are various ways of doing it.

Now, coming back to this question of the Central Government taking over the whole of this industry of generation, supply and distribution of power, I think it is not practicable. We are achieving this very purpose by a Central legislation, which vests the Central Government with some powers, but which enables the setting up also of boards in each State, which can function on a uniform basis. The Central Government, through the Central Electricity Authority, has some kind of power or function for developing a sound, adequate and uniform national policy, and particularly to co-ordinate the activities of the planning agencies, in relation to the control and utilisation of national power resources. So, there is an arrangement here already. I think if we utilise these provisions and these powers fully, there will be a great deal of improvement on the present position.

[Shri Nanda]

Another suggestion by the same hon. Member was about efficiency audit. I may inform him that we have got that provision already. I would not like to take up the time of the House by reading out that provision, but it is one of the functions of the board to direct the purchaser to adopt methods which will result in the most efficient and economical use of the assets and thus lead to the most economical results. So, the board has already got some power to issue directions to the licensees and those who have taken up the function of generating, supplying and distributing power.

I have dealt with the question of the rates, both the issue of the uniformity of rates, and the issue of the question of grids. I may further inform hon. Members that the information I have just got with me is that nearly 82 per cent of the power supply is already through grids. That represents a considerable progress. It is not one grid that exists. As I have explained already, there are about ten different grids in different States. The advantage of a grid is that it will enable us to progress towards the goal of uniform rates, which is not possible to achieve in the case of small stations here and there. The small stations will necessarily charge high rates, and those rates will vary very widely as well. But if we have a grid system, it is possible to have uniform rates over an area, and even to lower the rates.

Shri K. K. Basu: As a result of the growing introduction of the grid system, has there been a comparative lowering down of the rates?

Shri Nanda: Yes. There has been a reduction. When the small stations producing at a very heavy cost are eliminated, then naturally, the result is that in those areas, the power is available at lower rates.

Shri Sinhasan Singh: Could the Minister give us an example where the rates were very high, but where, as a result of the introduction of the grid system, the rates have been lowered? And to what extent have the rates gone down in that place?

Shri Nanda: One hon. Member himself has cited an instance already, where the rates have gone down. But he had another complaint that the supply had become less dependable. There may be some special reasons, and we shall have to look into them.

Shri Raghunath Singh: Shri D. C. Sharma has said that.

4 P.M.

Shri Nanda: Now only one or two small points remain for me to answer. The hon. Member, Shri U. M. Trivedi, seemed to have read the Bill in a hurry. He thought that we were doing certain things which were possibly going to harm the interests of the consumers. That was when he referred to the incorporation of certain schedules in the licences. It would not hurt the consumers; it is going to help, and is intended to help them.

Then he made a suggestion which I do not want to characterise. He said that the removal of the members of the Board should not be left to the discretion of Government but should be a matter for the courts to decide. If this were agreed to, then there may be no power at all available for days and months—if all these people were to be hauled up before courts. We do not want to set up these boards and corporations and various agencies in order to fetter us and in order to make us helpless. If we did so, that would be the best way of condemning all these methods of public enterprise. This is a suggestion which certainly could never be acceptable.

Then there was the question of difficulties in obtaining power in Bihar. Those difficulties are in Delhi and in many other places. As long as power is not adequate and abundant, difficulties are going to remain. Hundreds of crores of rupees are being

allocated for expanding the supply of power in this country. I hope that in course of time more of those needs will be satisfied. But my fear is that when power has become five times what it is now, these difficulties and complaints will still remain because much more power will be needed then. But we will try to match the supply with the expanding demand in the country.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put the motion to the vote of the House. It is not necessary to specify the number of Members required to constitute a sitting. It is covered by the rules.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Shri N. C. Kasliwal, Swami Ramanand Shastri, Shri Rup Narain, Shri Bishwa Nath Roy, Dr. M. C. Jatav-vir, Shri W. S. Kirolikar, Shri A. S. Damar, Shri Ahmed Mohiuddin, Shri G. H. Deshpande, Shri S. R. Rane, Shri Debendra Nath Sarmah, Shri T. Sanganna, Shri Subodh Hasda, Shri A. Ibrahim, Shri L. N. Mishra, Shri Rajeshwar Patel, Shri Naval Prabhakar, Shri K. G. Wodeyar, Shri N. P. Damodaran, Shri I. Eacharan, Shri Ranbir Singh Chaudhuri, Shri S. K. Kandasamy, Shri Bijoy Chandra Das, Shri Sadhan Chandra Gupta, Shri K. Kelappan, Shri Kandala Subrahmanyam, Shri N. C. Chatterjee, Shri Tulsidas Kalichand, Shri Benjamin Hansda, and the mover, with instructions to report on the opening day of the next session".

The motion was adopted.

MULTI-UNIT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further amend Multi-Unit Co-operative Societies Act, 1942, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

This is a one-line Bill. The Act was originally passed in the year 1942. It was for the purpose of incorporation, regulation and winding up of co-operative societies with objects covering more than one State. At that time, India was divided into British India and the Indian States. But now, when co-operative activities are increasing, the number of societies which we wish to operate in more than one State is also increasing. There are some 54 societies which are co-operative and which we wish to operate in more than one State. The total number of members comes to 6,79,538.

This necessitates amendment of this Act so that Part 'B' and Part 'C' States do not remain outside the scope of the Act. Therefore, this extends to the whole of India as it is understood today.

I do not think I need take up the time of the House any longer. This is a very simple Bill. It is necessary in the interest of co-operation, as I have explained.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved.

"That the Bill further to amend the Multi-Unit Co-operative Societies Act, 1942, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

Shri Achuthan (Crangannur): I want to know whether this is to have an apex all-India society under which there will be State societies.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This will permit registration of societies which can operate in more than one State. At the present moment, they can do so in Part 'A' States. But so far as Part 'B' and 'C' States are concerned, they cannot so operate. This Bill will give them the authority to operate, and establish societies which have for

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

their object extension of activities beyond one State.

Shri Achuthan: What was the difficulty felt by Government in not having this law extended to Part 'B' States since even now there are societies which have operations in different States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: For the time being, they could not operate in Part 'B' and Part 'C' States. They could operate in one State but not beyond the jurisdiction of one particular State of the 'B' and 'C' Class. This will enable them to do so.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Now, Part 'B' States are all gone. At the moment, co-operative societies working in a Part 'A' or Part 'B' State cannot extend their activities to other States. Now Government want to get that power to enable them to extend their activities to other States.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes

Shri Achuthan: I welcome this measure. This is an age of co-operation. So necessarily many activities of the Government as well as of private bodies must come within the fold of co-operative societies. Just a few days back, our Food Minister was telling us that if at all there must be rural credit available to every nook and corner of this vast country, it could only be done though co-operative societies. Moreover, it is also found recently that the credit system alone won't be sufficient. There will have to be a number of societies in the agricultural field engaging in various activities, one for seed supply, one for manure supply, one for stocking of the harvest, one for dairying, poultry and so on. In all branches of activity of the rural folk, I find a future which is bright only if all these activities come under the fold of co-operative societies. So naturally only if a society wants to have its jurisdiction in one State and also to co-ordinate all those activities under one central body, there can be a uniform policy throughout that area.

Take, for instance, South India. A place in Madras State wants to have a society for the distribution of manure or seed to the neighbouring taluks or districts. The districts in another State may not have the advantage of this facility if there are no branches available in that State for the same purpose. So there is no reasoning necessary for this Bill coming into effect as early as possible. In economic activities, in agriculture, minor industry, cottage industry or supplies of all these things—credit societies even—it is necessary that a number of States must come under one central apex society.

Then only there can be as efficient as possible a distribution of the facilities which are bound to come from co-operative societies as well as the effective supervision of the activities of the societies. So, I welcome this Bill and whole-heartedly support this.

Shri K. K. Basu: As the hon. Member who spoke just before me has said, co-operatives must play a very important part in the social and economic life of our country. Therefore, any move by Government to improve their working will certainly have the support of the House.

I would only urge upon the Minister and the Government that they should not just get the law amended which will give them power to extend the jurisdiction of a particular co-operative institution beyond the territorial limits of State. But, they should see that the real spirit of the law is worked upon.

We know full well that the co-operative movement in our country is not very strong. It is more or less restricted to a few parts of India. However much we might wish, so far, we had not been able

to extend the co-operative movement to all the States with that amount of efficiency and good working as we wish. I do not say that Government iself is to blame or that it was always at fault. But, by and large, as the Government practically stepped into the shoes of the foreign Government, which had a stepmotherly attitude towards the co-operative movement and which left it entirely to the initiative and enterprising spirit of the citizens or the local inhabitants of a particular area, the Government gave very little support in those days. But, unfortunately, our national Government did not step up the co-operative movement. I do not mean by that that they did nothing. They must realise that in our country while the poverty is so appalling and the rural population constitutes nearly 80 per cent of the population and industries are very much decentralised—leave aside big industries—and we have a large number of small industries either cottage or on small scale or village industries, we want the support and sympathy of Government. Government had schemes, but, unfortunately, they remained more or less paper schemes. They did not help to activise the institutions.

We had certain targets in the First Five-Year Plan. I do not know to what extent we have been able to fulfil them. Certainly, in the Second Five-Year Plan our targets are very high. We all wish that we shall be able to reach the targets.

What I want to emphasise is this. Merely amending this Act will not do. The hon. Minister must take into consideration this fact. In a particular State a co-operative society or a co-operative institution may be very powerful. In an adjoining State, because of lack of experience or in the earlier days they did not always work to the best advantage the provisions of the law or the Government did not help them, there is no such strong institution. He must try to extend the jurisdiction of those active institutions to those areas so that in those areas too the movement may grow up.

This is not the time when can give our opinions and criticism on the co-operative movement. We have our views. We think many of the provisions need to be changed in many respects. Ours is a poor country. Even in these co-operative laws we lay much stress on fixed assets either in the case of rural or agricultural land or in the case of smaller or village industries. They must have some implements or some assets which shall be considered as real assets or assets of some fixed value. We have to take into consideration the possibilities of enlarging the scope of the co-operative movement and try to bring under it a large percentage of persons, small workers etc., who do not have much of the assets. They should be helped in the form of loans. Government should make an attempt to build up the movement; Government should help them to improve their economic condition and social life. I would urge upon the Minister to see that the movement should grow and all, the impediments that there may be should be removed so that the co-operative movement has really an abiding place in the social and economic life of the country.

Co-operation being a State subject, I want to ask the hon. Minister whether, by amending this legislation and allowing co-operative institutions to extend their territorial jurisdiction, we would not be rubbing the States on the wrong side. But I do not say that if the State Governments take an irrational view, we as Parliament should not see that that is curbed in the interests of the community or the interests of the nation which are paramount. I only say that we must carry the States with us. Just by changing the law we cannot improve. I think that before this law is being put through, the

[Shri K. K. Basu]

Minister must have prior consultation with the State Governments because they shall have to bear the burden of seeing the co-operative movement grow and thrive in the country and co-operation is essentially within the purview of the State Legislatures. I think the Minister has already taken their support in bringing forward this amending Bill.

In conclusion, I again urge that it is not enough that the law is changed but it should really be worked in the spirit in which we have changed the law.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Chittor): I would like to put a few questions to be answered by the hon. Minister and I will request you, Sir, that he may be asked to elucidate certain points.

I do not know why this necessity has arisen to extend this law today to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to know whether this law has been adapted to the various 'B' States and if it was not adapted why was it not adapted in 1950 when all the other laws were adapted. If I can get a reply to this, I think, I may be able to offer some criticism about this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member may proceed with further questions and the Minister may be asked to answer them at one time.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: The difficulty is this. I might argue something with that.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He wants to ensure himself before putting questions.

Shri K. K. Basu: It is always the habit of lawyers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: First he wants to find out the basis on which to build up.

Shri P. M. Trivedi: My difficulty is this; I must be very frank about it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is expected already.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: This Bill has been passed by the Rajya Sabha. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is not there.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It was there in the original Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Member had cared to find out, he would have traced the original Bill which must have contained the Objects and Reasons.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I quite appreciate that, Sir, but the difficulty is there and if at least an extract of the original Bill had been published or put in here, it would have been of great help to the Members.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That could be considered at some other time. In spite of those difficulties, does the hon. Member want to say something?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: This Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha and one of the provisions of the Bill is that the Central Government may have to appoint a Central Registrar; in other words, money will have to be spent by the Central Government over the appointment of a Registrar.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It is not a part of this Bill.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: That is really the purpose of this amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Such a controversy should not go on between the Members and the Minister.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I wish to draw the hon. Minister's attention to the fact that now he is making this provision that this law will extend to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Formerly its application was only restricted to British India; in other words, it was not applicable to the various Part 'B' States, like Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat, Vindhya Pradesh, Bhopal, Saurashtra and PEPSU, and Government will have to incur expenditure for its administration arising out of the various appointments that it has to make. Under those circumstances, I would like to know how this Bill got to be introduced as money was to be spent by the State or by the Union.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If there is some objection in our discussing it, that might be taken up.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: This is one of the questions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have already requested the hon. Member to put all his questions.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: I am putting a series of my questions. The next question is this: When we are doing away with Part 'B' State altogether, where was the necessity or urgency felt to bring in this Bill about six months ahead of the time? We could have waited till the 'B' States disappeared. Why the necessity has arisen today and where the urgency about it was, I have not yet realised. If you did not apply it to Jammu and Kashmir State—of course Jammu and Kashmir State will still remain a 'B' State according to the States Reorganisation Bill and that is the only State which would remain a 'B' State—the provision ought to be that it extends to the whole of India expect to the 'B' States. If you had said that, it would have served the purpose. The nauseating thing, which is pocking into one's eyes by the words that it will not apply to the State of Jammu and Kashmir—as if Jammu and Kashmir is not part of the territory of India—will have evaporated. I would, therefore, suggest that whenever such Bills are introduced, we should take care not to be always harping upon this factor hat Jammu and Kashmir is not a territory of India. It is enough that we have been told so often that we know perhaps....

Shri Shree Narayan Das: (Darbhanga Central): Where has it been said that Jammu and Kashmir is not a territory of India?

Shri M. D. Joshi (Ratnagiri South): It says that this law applies to the whole of India except Jammu and Kashmir. It means that India includes Jammu and Kashmir, but this Bill does not apply to Jammu and Kashmir. How does it signify that Jammu and Kashmir is not a territory of India?

Shri U. M. Trivedi: All are my sons except the eldest son and this is something like that. When all are your sons, why should there be this exception made in favour of the eldest child? This is what I cannot understand. If you want to make a law which does not apply to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, you should not unnecessarily bring it to the notice of the people of this vast continent that somehow there is some differential, step-motherly and foster attitude towards Jammu and Kashmir and this fact should not be put pointedly before them. You are bound to call a blind man as blind, but that does not mean that we should tell him that he is blind; it is enough that we recognise this fact. So, it is sufficient if we recognise this fact that it will not apply to 'B' States and nobody outside this country in the world will understand the implications of it. Nobody will ask about it but will think that it must be a particular type of State. But here it is a pointed attention to

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the world at large that Jammu and Kashmir State is not amongst us. I should say that we must cry a halt to this sort of thing. If the Government desires that under a particular article of our Constitution this law is required to be applied to Jammu and Kashmir State, I think there is nothing wrong in applying the principles of the Multi-Unit Co-operative Societies Act even to Jammu and Kashmir State and that State ought to have been consulted on the point and its affirmation taken beforehand. Therefore, I am afraid that there is something much more than what meets the eye in omitting Jammu and Kashmir State from this provision.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I would like to take the speech of my friend who spoke first because there are many doubts, suspicions and all sorts of things in his mind. He also suspects that the Government has some evil intentions in this simple Bill. Actually the intention of this Bill is to remove....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I find an hon. Member crossing the floor of the House. The floor ought not to be crossed so summarily.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The only purpose of this Bill is to remove a technical impediment in the way of societies functioning in more than one State, especially since the original wording was 'British India' and the adaptation order was contained in paragraph 8 of the Adaptation of Laws Order, 1950. This was the adaptation order by which it applied to the erstwhile British India but did not bring under its purview the rest of the Indian States which were formed into B and C Class States.

The second question that my hon. friend asked was this: now that Part B and C States are likely to be eliminated, was there any reason for bringing forward this Bill? This Bill was drafted and placed before the Rajya Sabha, at any rate, in 1955. It must have been more than a year back that notice of this Bill was given. At that time I make bold to say that the abolition of Part B States and C States was not even under contemplation. At the time the Bill was framed, Part B and C States were there and that was the reason why the Bill was so framed. Even now these States are there, and it will be only after the Rajya Sabha passes the States Reorganisation Bill and the Constitution is amended that actually Part B and C States would disappear. In any case, this Bill will not harm anybody.

The third question raised by my hon. friend was whether any expenditure of money would be involved. Nothing of the sort. As I said, this is merely to remove a technical impediment, and it is not incumbent upon anybody, as a result of this measure, to see that societies are established, that they cover more than one State and that money should be expended. There is absolutely nothing of that sort. In any case, all these things are to be done by the States and the Centre is not going to spend anything on the establishment or promotion of these societies. Even if it does, it will be duly provided for under laws brought before this House and sanction of the House will be taken therefor. My hon. friend's difficulties about all these three points at any rate therefore do not stand.

Fourthly, he was rather struck and did not like the mention of the words "Jammu and Kashmir" in this Bill. I can understand his sentiments although the way in which he spoke would probably make the situation worse. While objecting to the specific mention of Jammu and Kashmir he himself made the situation worse by saying that such mention entailed lack of dignity to Jammu and Kashmir. He said: What is the use of telling a blind man that he is blind and so on.

I wish he had merely said that it does not look nice now that we wish to minimise the distinctions between the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of India that this should be there. But here also I may say we are compelled by the actual constitutional position as it obtains today. So long as entry 44 is not altered and the Constitution is not amended to that extent, it is our duty to be truthful to the Constitution and also bear in mind the provisions which obtain at the present day. Under those circumstances, we had no other alternative but to word the amendment in the way we have done.

So far as the observations of my other friends are concerned, I am very glad to find that all of them are deeply interested in the progress of the co-operation movement. In fact, it is our endeavour to create in the country a climate favourable to the establishment and progress of co-operation. We know that it has existed for the last fifty years. We have not put it on such a high pedestal, nor made it as sound as it should be and in the first Five Year Plan we had not taken many steps for its better management or co-ordination. But in Second Plan we have made many proposals and we propose to have a better arrangements and larger schemes for looking after co-operation in the country.

In fact, the Central Government in the past had left this entirely to the State Governments and it was, in a way, right also. When we however found that they were not being promoted in the best possible way, we decided to give them a helping hand, to give financial assistance in the establishment of societies and help co-ordination in many other ways.

Last year we celebrated the International Co-operation Day on a much wider scale than ever before. We have also, on my personal initiative, established a very big co-operative store here: It is both a retail as well as a wholesale store and we have high ambition of linking it with stores all over the country. So, I can assure my hon. friends that we, the Ministry and the Government, attach very great importance, to the co-operative movement to its improvement to the removal of the defects and also to making financial assistance available.

One point which another hon. friend made was that with regard to the State authorities. He wanted to know if we are going to compel them. There is nothing of that sort in the Bill. We are not compelling any States. We are trying to remove the difficulties in their way. So, there is no likelihood of any opposition on the part of the States in that respect. We are only removing the difficulties that are likely to arise or that arise in the case of societies established by them. It is nowhere stated that we will ask them to establish societies so that they may work in more than one State. That is not our purpose. It is merely a step in helping the States and the societies established in those States. So, there is no likelihood of any objection being taken by any State.

I do not want to take any more of the time of the House for this simple Bill. I commend it for consideration.

Shri U. M. Trivedi: May I point out that only a few members are present here and there is no quorum?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung. Now there is quorum.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): Before you put the question before the House, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any inter-State multi-unit co-operative societies have been formed since the inception of this Act and whether there had been any attempt on the part of the State Governments to encourage these co-operative societies, some of which are producers' and others are consumers'? Have Government taken any step in the matter and, if so, what is the result?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I may mention that there are according to our information, 54 societies as mentioned in my speech, which are operating in

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more than one State. Their membership is 6,79,538. Of this about 1,21,448 is from areas outside the State of registration. With the amendment of the Act the number of these types of societies will increase, particularly because a large part of the marketing of agricultural produce takes place on inter-State basis. As the hon. Member knows, we have just passed an Act with the intention of encouraging inter-State co-operative marketing and that will also be assisted by this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Multi-Unit Co-operative Societies Act, 1942, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 and 2, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I beg to move: "That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved: "That the Bill be passed."

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon. Minister could not give me the real answer which I wanted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If that answer has not been given at that time, this at least is not the stage for getting that answer.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I welcomed this Bill when it has been brought at this hour and I whole-heartedly supported it. I would request the hon. Minister to see that the co-operative societies, as envisaged, should not increase in number. They should see that the work that was being done by State Governments on State basis should be transferred to these multi-purpose socities. Now for example, transport of gram from Punjab is done through State Governments.

Why should not the Government of Punjab and the Governments of other States come forward to transact this business through multi-purpose co-operative societies that are in existence and whose members are said to be more than lakhs? I only want to direct the attention of the hon. Minister in this direction, so that these multi-purpose societies will grow and work efficiently.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Sir, it actually falls outside the purpose of this Bill, but I will certainly bear in mind the observation which my hon. friend has made.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN LAC CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Indian Lac Cess Act, 1930, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, under the Indian Lac Cess Act there were certain provisions with regard to the respresentation on the Lac Cess Cmmittee. It was the wish of this House as well as of the Rajya Sabha that there should be enlarged representation of growers, and also there should be nominees of the legislatures on a good many of the committees. It was with this end in view that we examined the composition of all the commodity committees and tried to stream-line them providing these two Houses representation on those committees wherever it did not exist previously.

So far as this Bill is concerned, we had, for the purpose of remodelling the representation, proposed the substitution of clause 3 in place of section 4 of the principal Act. Here we have introduced certain changes by which we have given representation to both the Houses—two from Lok

Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha—on this body. Then we have suggested four members representing the shellac manufacturing industry to be nominated by the Central Government. Originally we were giving three representations to the mechanically run industries all of whom belonged to foreigners. Instead of that we have now substituted a membership of four representatives so that we need not confine them only to the factories but also could give representation adequately to the smaller manufacturers of shellac.

Then, we have retained some of the older provisions of representation like the Chairman of the governing body who was nominated by the Government. Under sub-section (ii) of section 4 we have added the Chairman of the Advisory Board and instead of three members representing the shellac manufacturing industry, one member representing lac brokers and so on, whom we have retained, we have substituted four members, as I have pointed out, for representation of all kinds of small and big industries in the country.

We have also retained sub-section (iii) and sub-section (iv) of section 4 of the old Act and, so far as the growers' representatives are concerned, we have added three more. We had originally six members representing the cultivators of lac to be nominated by the Central Government: one for West Bengal, one for Uttar Pradesh, one for Madhya Pradesh, one for Assam and two for Bihar. We have substituted these six with nine members as follows: one for Assam, three for Bihar, two for Madhya Pradesh, one for Orissa, one for West Bengal and one for Vindhya Pradesh.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): What about Punjab?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Punjab does not produce much lac; hardly any. I think it must be a very small quantity. Bihar is the chief State which produces shellac and so they are given more representation.

Then we have made another provision. Instead of two members, of whom at least one shall represent the lac consuming industry in India, to be nominated by the Central Government, we have provided for four persons to be nominated by the Central Government, of whom one shall be a scientist, one shall represent the cultivators of lac in States other than those referred to already,—if Punjab does grow or grows more lac in future there is provision for putting on a representative by this clause—one shall represent the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and one shall represent the Ministry of Finance.

So, essentially, this Bill has been brought forward with the intention of giving representation to the Parliament, as well as larger representation to the growers.

Incidentally, the part B and C States, under most of these enactments, had been, excluded. They did not therefore, have any representation. We have taken this opportunity to eliminate this difference and provide representation for these States also.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Indian Lac Cess Act, 1930, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri Tushar Chatterjea (Serampore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I, no doubt, welcome this Bill in so far as it has made some improvement over the original Act. But, to my mind, the Bill falls far short of the necessity, for the simple reason that some two years back the Bihar Government appointed an Enquiry Committee to enquire into the condition of the shellac industry and that committee made an exhaustive report in which they have commented about this committee and have suggested that some improvement should be made. I find this Bill, although it has made some improvement, has failed to take note of the very valuable comments that the Bihar Shellac Enquiry Committee had made. I do not know whether the hon. Minister

[Shri Tushar Chatterjea]

carefully read that report or not, but, as far as I feel and as far as I know, this amending Bill is nothing but the result of the recognition of that Committee's report.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is right.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: If that is so, why was the Committee's report not taken into consideration with due seriousness. If the Government had done so, I am sure the Government would have done much more than what they have done in this Bill.

The Bihar Shellac Enquiry Committee definitely suggested that in the Cess Committee there should be larger representation of the indigenous manufacturers of shellac. That is a very definite recommendation made by the Bihar Shellac Enquiry Committee. Why have they recommended so? The main reason is this. The problem and the crisis that the shellac industry is facing today has to be understood properly and the Bihar Shellac Enquiry Committee has given a very correct picture of the exact problem obtaining in the shellac industry. The export of shellac is gradually decreasing, whereas the export of seedlac is increasing. That means, all the manufacturers who entirely depend on the manufacture of shellac are suffering very much for want of proper orders. All such manufacturers who depend on the export of shellac suffer, while those who have other avenues do not suffer.

In the shellac industry there are two types of manufacturers. In Manbhum district, out of 257 units of production, as many as 200 units are owned by small manufacturers who have no mechanised method of production, whereas only about 50 units are owned by producers who produce the commodity with the help of mechanised processes. These big manufacturers also produce seedlac. They do not run their industry only for the purpose of shellac. They produce seedlac also. While the export of shelloc is gradually decreasing, the export of seedloc is increasing. So, the big manufacturers do not have to suffer at all. They can earn their profit quite well, and the decreasing export of shellac does not at all affect their units. The 200 small manufacturers who can be well called as cottage industrialists only produce shellac and they do not have any arrangement for the production of seedlac. These are the facts.

If the Minister had read the Bihar Shellac Enquiry Committee's report thoroughly, he would have found that the Enquiry Committee has very definitely said that unless this problem of small manufacturers is taken into consideration and unless proper remedies are evolved, there is no way how we can improve the industry. The Enquiry Committee has definitely said that as long as this Cess Committee is dominated mainly by the big manufacturers and their representatives, the big manufacturers would not take into consideration the interests of the small producers. It is because the small producers' interest has been neglected, there is no improvement in this industry at all.

[Shri Raghavachari *in the Chair*]

4-53 P.M.

For these reasons, I have suggested some amendments to the Bill. One of my amendments suggests that out of four represetatives of the manufacturers of shellac, at least two must be representatives of the indigenous manufacturers. In the original Act, a specific mention is made of the fact that one representative of the indigenous manufacturers should be included. I do not understand why that specific provision has been removed from this Bill now. It means that the Government is free to nominate only the big manufacturers' representatives. Thus, as the small manufacturers go unrepresented, this Bill does not serve the purpose which it intends to serve.

I have also suggested that some labour representatives should also be taken in. It is a very important aspect, for, the problem of the shellac industry is not only the problem of the manufacturers but of the labourers also. If you look into the condition of the shellac industry in Manbhum district, you will find that a very large proportion of the regular workers are really unemployed. As far as I have gathered, about 75 per cent. of the workers who work in the shellac factories are either unemployed or are partly employed. 'Partly employed' means that they get work for not more than seven or ten days in a month. That is the position. The vast problem of unemployment is found in the Manbhum district where the only dependable industry is the shellac industry. It is not only a question of the unemployment of shellac workers but also a question of the small manufacturers closing down their units. The problem cannot be tackled if only the point of view of the big manufacturers is considered. Definite attempts should be made to improve the condition of workers of this industry by considering the point of view of the small manufacturers alongside the problem of the labourers.

There is another very important point, and that should also be understood by the Minister. The Bihar Shellac Enquiry Committee Report has very clearly revealed the horrible conditions of work which the workers have to face in this industry. 90 per cent. of the workers who have to work through the process of melting the lac get their hands and feet crippled and deformed after two or three years' work. This is due to the terrible heat that emanates during the melting process. I went to Purulia and I personally saw a large number of workers who showed their hands to me. They were almost deformed and with deformed hands, they somehow or other pull on with the work. Though with the deformed hands and feet, they can, somehow or other, continue to work, once they are discharged, they are completely unfit to take up any other work.

The decreasing export of shellac results in the closing down of the shellac units. That means unemployment among the workers who depend on the shellac industry. Their unemployment is such that it is not possible for them to take up any other profession for they are completely unfit with the deformed hands and feet. So, they will have to remain unemployed throughout their lives. Unless they are given some special type of job in which they can fit in, they have to remain unemployed. Therefore, the problem of the workers of the shellac industry involves urgent measures for relief, by way of fresh and suitable employment for those who have been crippled in the course of their work.

As far as I remember, the Bihar Shellac Enquiry Committee has definitely stated that out of the cess, some amount should be earmarked by which the labour welfare measures can be undertaken. I do not understand why the Ministry, although they have brought forward this Bill as a result of the comments made by the Bihar Shellac Enquiry Committee, have failed to give any consideration to the very serious problems that have been pointed out by the Enquiry Committee. Some provision has to be made to the effect that a part of the cess amount should be spent for the welfare of the injured workers also.

For the reasons stated earlier, I feel that this Bill does not touch the problem of lac industry at all. I do not understand why, after the Enquiry Committee has brought forward a report and when that report has been before the public for two long years, and especially when that report has made very clear criticism and suggestions in respect of the improvement of this industry, this sort of token charity, as it were, has been shown in this Bill and why all the major problems have been evaded.

[Shri Tushar Chatterjea]

It is quite good that the committee has been reconstituted. Members of Parliament have been included and a larger representation is given to the lac growers. At the same time, you must give special representation to small manufacturers of shellac and also to labour. Otherwise, that very serious problem of the labourers will remain completely unattended to and their horrible condition will continue. If you entirely depend upon the big manufacturers, they do not bother about the unemployment of the labourers and about the decrease in the shellac export, because their profits are secured by the export of seed lac, which is increasing by leaps and bounds. Representation to the small manufacturers and labour should be given, so that some labour welfare arrangement can be made out of the cess fund.

5 P.M.

In this connection, I would draw the attention of the Ministry to the more basic problems of the lac industry. India meets 90 per cent. of the world demand of shellac. Out of that, I remember that 70 per cent. of the export is to America. But, the peculiarity is that though we are the bulk suppliers of shellac to the whole world, we cannot control the industry and have our own independent policy. We have got to be dictated by what the American market says. In America, they say they will not take shellac, but they will only take seedlac, which is used as a raw material for producing shellac. They find it cheaper to purchase seedlac and produce shellac out of it and therefore, they are decreasing the demand for shellac and increasing the demand for seedlack. They are trying to use our country as a supplier of raw material and it is this attitude of the overseas market that has created a crisis in the shellac industry. Our export of shellac is gradually decreasing, resulting in terrible unemployment of the labourers and in the closing down of factories by small manufacturers. The profit-making policy of the big concerns is not affected, because they have got arrangements to produce both shellac and seedlac. They are closing down the shellac units and increasing the seedlac producing units, so that their profits remain unchanged.

If we are reconstituting this committee, it should not be simply to see that there is a committee to administer the cess fund. It should be a committee that can look into the improvement of the industry as a whole, that can suggest proper remedies of the problems and proper way out of the crisis. It is not enough to reconstitute the committee; we should also give such powers to this committee by which they can deal with these basic problems. There are certain remedies by which these basic problems can be solved. Firstly, the export of seed lac has to be controlled. We cannot simply depend upon the whims and desires of the American market. Simply because they want only seedlac and not shellac, we should not export seedlac alone to please them and get some money somehow or other. If we do that, it will lead to the ruination of the industry. We should decrease seedlac export and fix shellac export at a certain level. Secondly, the price should be controlled by Government. Thirdly, all the small manufacturers have to be given protection. Fourthly—this is more important—newer markets should be explored. We cannot depend entirely on the American export, which, although depending entirely on Indian shellac, dictates terms, leading to the ruination of a large number of workers and small cottage-industrialists. We must explore other markets also, so that this dictation by the American market can be avoided.

Lastly, I think that this committee should be given the power to find out ways and means by which diffe-

rent varieties of shellac production can be made. Out of shellac, all sorts of fancy goods are produced and we purchase these goods from the outside market, although shellac is produced here. It is not at all difficult to find out ways and means to establish units in which different varieties of articles generally made of shellac can be manufactured here. If we can do that, we can have our own shellac market here and we need not depend on the American market so much. It is in this way that a proper improvement of the shellac industry can be made.

The present amending Bill should have taken into account all these basic problems. I am really at a loss to understand why even after the Bihar Enquiry Committee have given their recommendations and suggestions, the Government has brought forward this sort of Bill, which does not touch the problems obtaining in the shellac industry at all. I admit that there is an improvement on the original Act. but I feel that the Bill does not at all touch the problems of the shellac industry without tackling which there cannot be any improvement of our ecenomy.

श्री अ० इब्राहीम (रांची उत्तर पूर्व) : बिहार सबसे ज्यादा लाख पैदा करता है और मैं उस एरिया से बिहार की आता हूं जहां पर सबसे ज्यादा लाख पैदा हो ती है, यानी छोटा नागपुर।

श्री ल० ना० मिश्र (दरभंगा व भागलपुर) : अब बंगाल में चला गया है।

श्री अ० इब्राहीम : सब नहीं, जा रहा है। रांची में इंडियन लैक रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट (भारतीय लाख गवेषणा संस्था) भी है जो कि बड़ा अच्छा काम कर रहा है। मैं तो कहूंगा कि लाख में जितनी तरक्की होनी चाहिये, उसके बारे में वह बराबर कोशिश कर रहा है और उसकी तरक्की हुई भी है। लेकिन साथ ही यह भी कहूंगा कि इस इंडियन रिसर्च इंस्टिट्यूट में जितनी तरक्की हो रही है और जो रिसर्च वहां पर हो रही है, वह देहातों तक नहीं पहुंचती है। इसके वास्ते आज कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है कि देहातों में जा कर के इस चीज को बढ़ाया जाय। जो रिसर्च में तरक्की होती है वह लैबोरेटरी (प्रयोगशाला) तक ही रह जाती है और दूसरों तक जाने नहीं पाती।

अभी मेरे एक भाई ने कहा कि यहां से अब सीडलैक बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में एक्सपोर्ट (निर्यात) हो रही है। क्या आपने इसका कारण जानने की कोशिश की है। सीडलैक (ददरी लाख) से शैलाक (चपड़ा) तैयार होता है और जो बाई-प्रोडक्टस (उपोत्पाद) बच जाते हैं उनका भी अच्छी तरह से दूसरे मुल्कों में इस्तेमाल कर लिया जाता है। इस से अमरीका तथा दूसरे मुल्कों में दो फायदे होते हैं, एक तो उनको शैलाक मिलता और दूसरे जो बाई-प्रोडक्टस होते हैं उनको वे काम में ले आते हैं। यही कारण है कि वे मुल्क सीडलैक ही मंगाते हैं और शैलाक को नहीं मंगाते। इसका एक कारण यह भी है कि शैलाक के दाम उनको ज्यादा देने पड़ते हैं और साथ ही साथ जो बाई-प्रोडक्टस हैं उनका भी वे इस्तेमाल नहीं कर पाते हैं। यहां के जो व्यापारी हैं वे भी सीडलैक को भेज देना ही पसन्द करते हैं। सीडलैक (ददरी लाख) भेजकर उनको शैलाक (चपड़ा) के जितने दाम मिलते थे उतने ही मिल जाते हैं। इसका अमरीका को भी फायदा होता है। सीडलैक मंगा कर बाई-प्रोडक्टस को भी वह इस्तेमाल में ले आता है। इसका एक नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि यहां के जो लोग हैं वे बेकार होते जा रहे हैं। यही कारण है कि जो व्यापारी लोग हैं वे अपने कारखानों को बन्द कर रहे हैं।

[श्री अ० इब्राहीम]

पहले तो उनको अपने छोटे-छोटे कारखानों के लिए पैसा खर्च करना पड़ता था और आदमी रखना पड़ता था लेकिन आज कुछ नहीं करना पड़ता है। वे सीडलैक को ही एक्सपोर्ट कर देते हैं। इस कारण से उनकी जो फैक्टरियां हैं वे बन्द हो रही हैं और इसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि बेकारी बढ़ रही है। इन फैक्ट्रियों (कारखानों) के बन्द होने से लोगों की जीविका का जो यह एक साधन है वह खत्म हो रहा है। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूं कि इस धंधे में काफी लोग लगे हुए हैं और अपनी जीविका चला रहे हैं। उनको रोजी बनी रहे इसका आपको कोई प्रबन्ध करना चाहिए।

साथ ही साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जो शैलाक पैदा करने वाले हैं उनको बराबर घाटा पड़ता जा रहा है। इसका कारण यह है कि जो फारवर्ड मार्किट (वादा बाजार) कलकत्ता में है या दूसरे बड़े-बड़े शहरों में जो फ़ारवर्ड मार्किट्स हैं वहां पर ज्यादा तर लोग योरोपिन हैं और वे जिस तरह से भी चाहते हैं भाव को कम कर देते हैं और जब भी चाहते हैं उसको बढ़ा देते हैं। इसके जो बड़े-बड़े व्यापारी हैं वे भी गैर इंडियन ही हैं। वे या तो अमेरिकन हैं या यूरोपियन हैं। एक कम्पनी इसफहानी कम्पनी थी वह भी यही काम करती थी। वह जब चाहती हैं दामों को गिरा देती हैं। इसका नतीजा यह होता है कि पैदा करने वालों को चूंकि वे अपना माल जमा नहीं रख सकते हैं, कम कीमत पर ही अपना माल बेच देना पड़ता है। अगर कल्टीवेटर्स (काश्तकरों) की को-ओप्रेटिव सोसाइटीज (सहकारी समितियां) बना दी जायें तो समझता वे अपने हितों की रक्षा कर सकेंगे और अपने माल को एक दो साल तक रोक कर रख सकेंगे और जब कंडिशंस फैवरेबल (स्थिति पक्ष में) होंगी तब बेच सकेंगे। ऐसा करने से जो बड़े-बड़े ट्रेडर्स (व्यापारी) हैं वे उनको एक्सप्लायट (शोषित) नहीं कर सकेंगे। लेकिन अब तक तो ऐसा नहीं हुआ है और जो कल्टीवेटर्स हैं उनको बराबर घाटा ही पड़ता रहा है और उनको नुकसान ही होता रहा है। १०–१५ आदमी मिल कर बहुत अच्छी तरह से इस काम को कर सकते हैं और अपनी जीविका चला सकते हैं। अभी हमारे भाई ने कहा कि मानभूम में कारखाने हैं। लेकिन मैं उनको बतलाना चाहता हूं कि केवल मानभूम में ही ये नहीं हैं बल्कि सारे छोटा नागपुर में हैं। इस वक्त भी वहां पर जो छोटे छोटे कारखाने हैं उनमें लोग काम कर रहे हैं। लेकिन जब से सीडलाक भेजना शुरू कर दिया गया है वे बेकार लोग हो गए हैं और बहुत थोड़े लोग ही ऐसे हैं जो इस काम में लगे हुए हैं। तो मैं समझता हूं कि अगर सरकार इन को-ओप्रेटिव्स की तरफ ध्यान दें तो यह मसला काफी हद तक हल हो सकता है।

मैं यह भी चाहता हूं कि जो कल्टीवेटर्स (काश्तकार) हैं उनको जो कमेंटी आपने बनाई है उस पर और भी ज्यादा रिप्रिजेंटेशन मिलना चाहिये। यदि उनको और ज्यादा नुमाइंदगी दी गई तो वे अपनी मुश्किलात आपके सामने और ज्यादा अच्छी तरह से रख सकेंगे। अब जो कुछ नुमाइंदे लिए गए हैं पूरी पूरी जानकारी नहीं है। मैं तो यह कहना चाहता हूं कि आपको तमाम इलाके के लोगों को इसमें रखना चाहिये ताकि कमिटी को उनकी तमाम दिक्कतों के बारे पूरी पूरी जानकारी हो सके।

इसमें शक नहीं कि यह जो विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया है, यह पहले बिल पर इम्प्रुवमेंट (सुधार) है और मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूं। लेकिन साथ साथ यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि आपको इस पर विचार करना चाहिए कल्टीवेटर्स को आप ज्यादा से ज्यादा नुमाइंदगी दें और साथ ही साथ उनके कारोबार को अच्छी हालत में रखने के लिए उनमें से बेकारी दर करने के लिए आप आवश्यक कदम उठायें।

Shri S C. Samanta (Tamluk): We are thankful to the hon. Minister for bringing forward this amending Bill for the reconstitution of the Indian Lac Cess Committee. We would have been more glad if with this he had brought some change in the duties and functions of the Committee also.

We have come to know the cess of Rs. 2 lakhs which is collected every year by the Indian Lac Cess Committee is not being spent. My friend Shri Tushar Chatterjea was referring to the condition of the labour in the area. The lac industry has been usurped so to say by some three or four foreign firms and the indigenous industry is at stake at present. My friend was describing how the workers produce shellac in the fire and their hands are burnt. Because there are only three mechanised units in the industry, they pay the labourers according to their pleasure. The pay is very low and when they retire they are in a miserable condition. At the same time we find that there is so much money at the disposal of the Committee. Why not some amount be granted to those workers who are retiring? We shall be glad if the reconstituted Committee looks into this favourably.

These foreign firms are after money. They are exploiting the labour. They are not at all favourable to the workers. The workers are suffering. At the same time, indigenous producers are also suffering because they cannot compete with the mechanised industry. So, Government should come forward to provide some safeguard to the indigenous manufacturers of lac and if necessary, Government should come forward with a loan to these indigenous manufacturers to establish factories and compete with the foreign firms.

The hon. Minister has, by this change, provided for nine members to represent cultivators. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how the representation of the individual States has been calculated. What is the standard—production or anything else? Again in the proposed sub-section (viii) of section 4 he has provided that one shall represent the cultivators of lac in States other than those referred to in clause (vii). These representatives also are from the place where lac is cultivated. Why should there not be ten or twelve representatives? If there be any cultivation at all in any State, in order to give encouragement to the cultivators there, they should also be represented in the committee. My hon. friend there also was pleading that more persons should have been represented on this committee from among the manuacturers. I would like to know from the Minister which States he has in mind, from which one representative will be taken in over and above the nine manufacturers.

When 90 per cent of the lac or shellac is supplied by India, why should the Government not come forward to control it? Why should Government be agreable to export seedlac? I think seedlac export should be banned, and factories should be established with the help of Government to export only shellac. If we do not export seedlac, then other countries cannot say that they are not prepared to accept shellac.

In conclusion, I would request the Minister to see that the difficulties and distress that are faced by the labour and manufacturers there

[Shri S. C. Samanta]

should be looked into, and if necessary, Government should come forward with another amending Bill to safeguard the interests of the indigenous growers and the labour.

Shri L. N. Mishra: I do not want to make a speech, but I would like to ask only one or two questions of the hon. Minister.

How has this lac cess fund been used? How is it that the closing balance is increasing every year? Is the cess fund utilised at all for the purpose for which it is meant?

Secondly, I would like to know how the trade in lac has been monopolised only by three or four foreign parties. Have Government any proposal to break this monopoly by taking this trade also into the purview of the State Trading Corporation.

Mr. Chairman: I find that there is no other hon. Member who wants to speak. There is lack of interest. So, I shall now call the Minister.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: First, I shall deal with the points that have been raised in the course of the speeches made by the hon. Members, and then I shall come to the questions put by my hon. friend Shri L. N. Mishra.

I am very happy at that at least two Members have exhibited considerable interest in the lac industry, and they seem to know at first hand the position of the industry as well as that of the workers and the growers.

I refer especially to my hon. friend Shri Tushar Chatterjea, who dealt with the subject in a considerably comprehensive manner. My only complaint against his speech is that he is trying to find a remedy for all the difficulties by an amendment of this Bill. I am afraid that is not possible. I may forthwith tell him that I have personally studied the report to which he made repeated reference, namely the report produced in the Bihar State by a committee of experts. As a result of that report, I held a special conference at Ranchi. That conference was held at the instance of the Industries Minister from Bihar. I was personally present throughout the discussions, and many decisions were taken there, which were acceptable to the Bihar Government as well as to the members who attended that conference.

Although it is not correct to say that we have derived the inspiration for bringing forward this amending Bill only from that report, yet I may inform my hon. friend that most of the outstanding issues which could be remedied have been remedied, and action has been taken.

The conference to which I have made a reference was held at Ranchi, and it was followed by another conference at Simla, where not only the Bihar representatives, but also representatives and Ministers from other lac-growing States were present. That conference was just before the draft of the Second Five Year Plan was prepared; and it was held by me with the object that at least in the Second Five Year Plan, we might be able to minimise the hardships of the growers of lac as well as the manufacturers.

The number of indigenous manufacturers is not 200. It is double that number; it is nearly 400. I may forthwith say that the reason why the reservation of one representative at least for the indigenous manufacturers has been removed is for the sake of enlarging their representation rather than for minimising it. Out of the four representatives which we have got for manufacturers of shellac, I would not be surprised if we are in a position to give not only two, but probably one more, to these people. So, I can assure him that the removal of the reservation of one representative for smaller manufacturers of shellac was not with the intention of eliminating their representation which they had, but with

the definite intention of enlarging their representation.

So, I think that at least in this point, we have met his wishes, and there would therefore, be no need for him to press the amendment that he has tabled. I have given this specific assurance already. This point was discussed also in the Rajya Sabha, and the amendment which was made in the original Bill was with this intention.

We also saw that there were only two or three bigger manufacturers, and while we were giving them *ipso facto* representation, the other indigenous manufacturers were not duly represented. So, I can even give my hon. friend this assurance that there is very possibility of giving at least two representatives for the indigenous growers.

The criticism I made of my hon. friend Snri Tushar Chatterjea's speech, namely that he is trying to remedy all the defects and all the handicaps of the people engaged in this in dustry by amending this Act, is applicable also to the speech of my hon. friend Shri S. C. Samanta; he has pleaded that we should come forward with a more radical amendment of the Act, so that whatever balance is left of the cess fund should be utilised for other purposes.

But I would like to tell him that these are all commodity committees. There is a definite pattern of work before them, and I am afraid it cannot be extended, however desirable it may be, for labour welfare and such other activities. The functions of these committees are limited to research on the one hand, and extension on the other, and also certain other incidental things which will lead to the development of the growing as well as the manufacuring industry. The functions do not go beyond that. And the position is exactly the same as in the case of the Indian Central Cotton Committee, which does not deal with the welfare of the textile workers, for it is absolutely beyond its scope. These commodity committees are meant for the development of the commodities, for establishment of research institutions and so on.

I am glad that my hon. friend has made the suggestion for extending the results of research, and has complimented the institute on its work. I am very happy that he has appreciated the work that is being done there. When I visited this institute, it was decided that we must try and undertake a larger activity for the purpose of taking the results of this research to the people. I think an extension officer has already been appointed. We have every desire to intensify this activity, so that the results of research are passed on to the people so that they could take advantage of them.

So, I must say that giving any relief to the labourers directly, either by way of utilising the cess fund balances or in any other way, will lie outside the scope, not only of this Bill, but also of the powers of the committee. But nonetheless, I sympathise with the hardships of the labourers, and we as a Government—both the State Government as well as the Central Government—apart from the activities of this committee, will certainly pay attention to this matter. I shall certainly note this and bear this in mind, and see also what the State Governments and we can together do, so far as the amelioration of their condition is concerned.

It was also suggested that we should have a larger representation of growers than we have provided for. I would urge that this is a very extensive representation. The original composition of the Committee contained only 15 members. It is our experience also that if we make the Committee too unwiedly, then the intensity and quality of work suffers. So we erred on the somewhat conservative side, although we had

[Dr. P. S. Deshmukh]

to increase the membership to 24. Out of this number of 24, 9 are growers' representatives and 3 are going to be representatives of Parliament. That should, more or less, make a majority. There are also other interests who are not adverse to these representatives. So I think the representation we have provided is quite adequate. For instance, a scientist whom we want to appoint, I am sure, will not be under the thumb of the manufacturers whose numbers are going to be reduced progressively and very substantially. So I urge that the representation we have provided at the present moment is very adequate. The growers are now fully represented.

Shri S. C. Samanta wanted to know to whom this one representative of lac growing States not already represented was reserved for. I am not in a position to give a categorical or full reply at the moment. But I think States like Punjab and U.P. may probably find a place, or it may be any other State. It may be Hyderabad also which may be growing a little lac. This is a sort of miscellaneous representation which we have reserved in our power. When we feel that a certain State shows interest, then that representation will be given to it. Bihar is, by far, the most important State. It produces more than 60 per cent. of the lac produced in the country. Therefore, the most substantial representation has gone to that State.

So far as finances are concerned, the annual income from the cess is between Rs. 6 to Rs. 7 lakhs. The balance on 31-3-55 was rather large, but I think we have got new schemes by which we will be able to utilise this for the benefit of the industry. The balance was Rs. 23,53,701-4-7. It does look to be a big balance. That also happens in the case of the ICAR. But we have schemes which work for a number of years and the seemingly large balance is ultimately spent.

Mr. Chairman: Why nothing is spent for four years? The annual income is Rs. 6 lakhs. You have now a balance of Rs. 23 lakhs.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: It has been accumulating for the last few years.

Shri K. K. Basu: They have spent only Rs. 1 lakh.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Money saved is always welcome. Money expanded should be objected to. But we will see if there is any possibility of expanding its use.

Shri K. K. Basu: Do not spend on officials; spend on real work.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That is what our anxiety is. If we wanted to spend on officials, we could have spent it.

I do not think there is any other point which I have not touched.

Mr. Chairman: There was one point made about controlling export.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have undertaken many-side activities in my life. Among other things I happened to be the Chairman of the State Trading Committee and we had recommended that the Government should consider State trading in shellac. Of course, there are certain difficulties. I am glad the Corporation has now been established. I am sure it will be up to that Corporation to think whether it can take up this matter under State trading.

So far as export of seedlac is concerned, I do not think we can suddenly take such an action and ban its export altogether, although we will certainly again examine whether there are any possibilities of minimising the export of seedlac and pushing up more shellac. But the whole business is rather intricate.

I may also assure Members that the domination of the foreign manufacturing concerns is not likely to remain intact hereafter, not only because of the larger representation of

and this House, on the Committee but otherwise also. But with many disadvantages, there are certain advantages also which we secure, and in our hurry to do away with the disadvantages, we do not want to cast way the advantages also. Nonetheless. I am not speaking in favour of these big concerns, but we will have to examine the whole position and act somewhat cautiously.

Shri L. N. Mishra: How is the Lac Cess Fund utilised, and what is being done to do away with the monopoly?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have already replied about the funds. Actually there is no monopoly as such. They are the substantial producers of shellac and naturally, they dominate the market. But, as I said, both the Bihar Government and we are examining the possibility of giving a larger share of transactions and business to indigenous manufacturers.

As regards utilisation of the fund, at the present moment, it is the income of this Committee only. It is for this Committee to frame plans for the expenditure of the fund. It is not utilised for any other purpose.

Shri L. N. Mishra: Is it being utilised ? Every year the fund is increasing

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We are going to examine schemes by which we will spend the amount.

Shri Ibrahim: What about co-operatives?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: That, of course is for the State Governments to do. As the hon. Member knows, we have a large plan for extension of co-operatives. If any co-operatives are established, the Central Government will be very glad to give them loans and other assistance, provided the State Governments frame schemes and recommend them.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Lac Cess Act, 1930, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Chairman: We will take up all the clauses together.

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: In view of the Minister's assurance, I do not want to move my amendment No. 1, but I move amendments Nos. 2 and 3.

Clause 3:— (*Amendment of Section 4*)

Shri Tushar Chatterjea: I beg to move:

(i) Page 2—

after line 5, *insert*:

"(iva) four members representing workers of the shellac industry, to be nominated by the Central Government in consultation with the recognised central organisations of labour;"

(ii) Page 2—

(i) line 16, *for* "four members" *substitute* "five members"; and

(ii) line 22, *add* at the end:— "and one shall represent the Ministry of Labour".

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sorry I am not in a position to accept these amendments.

Mr. Chairman: I shall now put these amendments to the vote of the House.

The question is:

Page 2—

after line 5, *insert*:

"(iva) four members representing workers of the shellac industry, to be nominated by the Central Government in consultation with the recognised central organisations of labour;"

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

Page 2—

(i) line 16, *for* "four members" *substitute* "five members"; and

(ii) line 22, *add* at the end: "and one shall represent the Ministry of the Labour".

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 5, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5, clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Shri S. C. Samanta: Lakhs are being 'spoiled' in the lac industry.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Your complaint is that we are not spending.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I thank the hon. Minister for this Bill, and I hope that an exhaustive amendment will be brought forward in the near future. He has shown to us the difficulty that the commodity committees cannot spend money on labour facilities and other things. I will request him to see that a certain sum should be with the reserve fund of such committees and the rest only should go to Government for ameliorating the conditions of labour. This is my suggestion.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have noted the suggestion.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed".

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN COTTON CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

I am glad that all these two or three Bills are coming before the House simultaneously. The purpose of this Bill also is substantially the same as that of the Bill which has just been passed by the House. Essentially, we want to give representation to Parliament. Here also there is a provision for two Members from this House and one Member from Rajya Sabha to be represented on the Indian Central Cotton Committee. We are also providing for larger representation of the growers on this committee. Originally, we had 9 representatives of cotton growers, 2 from Bombay, 2 from Madras, 1 from Punjab, 2 from U.P., 2 from Madhya Pradesh. This has been very substantially increased to as big a figure as 26; it is nearly 300 per cent. The representation will be, Bombay 5, Madhya Pradesh 5, Hyderabad 4, Madhya Bharat 2, Saurashtra 2, Madras 1, Andhra 1, Bhopal 1, Mysore 1, PEPSU 1, Punjab 1, Rajasthan 1 and U.P. 1.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): How do they relate to the production of cotton in those States?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: This is roughly according to the acreage under cotton.

So, the main purpose of this Bill was to meet the wishes of this House. They had suggested some time ago—it was in 1953—that the Parliament should be represented on these commodity committees and the growers' representation should be increased. We have done this at the cost of the Government of India's nominees. Originally, we had 15 nominees whom we could nominate on the Indian Central Cotton Committee and we have reduced this to only 6.

Mr. Chairman: Your nominating power is not reduced; it is there

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These representatives are generally recommended by the States and to that extent we do not generally interfere. So, the hon. Members will be able to see that we have carried out their wishes very substantially, if not very fully—probably more than they themselves expected. The total strength of the Committee which was 53 has now gone up to 66; out of which 26 will be growers' representatives, 3 will be Parliament Members. Some of the other members who will be more or less interested in the growers' interest will also support them. Therefore, the interests of the growers will be protected far better.

There was, incidentally, one other difficulty with the original Act. Therefore, we are defining 'managing agent'. There was some difficulty in the collection of the cess according to the original Act. Originally the term used was 'owner' and it was not defined anywhere. So we have taken this opportunity of putting in an amendment in such a way that nobody would be able to avoid paying the cotton cess which goes to the Indian Central Cotton Committee. The word "occupier" is substituted for the word "owner" and the word is defined here. We have also used "managing agent" having the meaning assigned to it in the Indian Companies Act, 1913.

There is nothing controversial in this Bill. One amendment is for removing the difficulty in the collection of the cess and the others are to meet the wishes of the House for larger representation. I hope the House will accept this measure.

5-46 P.M.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Indian Cotton Cess Act, 1923, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta South-East): This Bill is of rather greater importance than the small time allotted to it suggests. The Bill deals with the constitution of a committee no doubt, but the committee is charged with the work of applying the cess collected on cotton. The importance of the cess is very much as far as growers are concerned, because the use of the cess is for the purpose of promoting technological and agricultural research as provided under section 12 of the Act, and, of course, assistance to manufacturers is also contemplated as well as assistance for the purpose of marketing. Whatever might have been the importance of the cess previously for the purpose of assistance to manufacturers or for the purpose of marketing, today the importance of the cess is bound to be in the assistance rendered to growers of cotton and in the matter of technological and agricultural research, because manufacturers are hardly likely to be benefited very much and hardly likely to care very much for the relatively paltry sum that is recovered from the cess. I think the latest recovery is about Rs. 50,00,000 or so. I am not equipped with the up-to-date figures, but even if it is Rs. 50,00,000—it could not have been more—the cotton manufacturers in our country are not likely to be interested in so small a sum. That is the importance of the cess. It is the vital concern of the growers.

When we look at the amendments proposed in the Bill, we find that the Committee is heavily weighted with the representatives of industry and trade and not with the representatives of the growers. Although the growers are the most interested party in application of this cess, yet the heaviest weightage is given to industry and trade. For example, if you just look at the new proposed section 4 of the Act, which is introduced by clause 3, there is the Vice-President of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research; I have no quarrel with that. Then there is the Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India; he may be there. Then there are two persons to be nominated by the Central Government to represent that Government; here, of course, some amount of bureaucracy will come in.

[Shri Sadhan Gupta]

Then there are fourteen persons to be nominated by the Central Government, to represent respectively the Agricultural Departments of the Governments of the States—several States are mentioned. Here also there is bureaucratic weightage. Now, No. 6 is: 26 persons to be nominated by the Central Government in consultation with the State Governments concerned to represent the cotton growers of whom 5 shall be nominated from each of the States of Bombay and Madhya Pradesh, 4 from the State of Hyderabad and two each from some of the other States mentioned. Here also it is the Government who would nominate the cotton growers—I do not know what kind of cotton growers they nominate. Obviously, here in the name of cotton growers some persons congenial to the Government will get in.

Then, No. 7 is: 8 persons to be nominated respectively by the East India Cotton Association, the Bombay Mill-owners' Association, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, the Ahmedabad Mill-owners' Association, the Tuticorin Chamber of Commerce, the Upper India Chamber of Commerce and the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. All these bodies are either interested in the textile industry or are interested in the cotton trade.

Now, the application of the cess in today's context is not likely to assist the textile industry very much. It is also not likely to assist the cotton trade very much. But they have a heavy weightage.

Then again, 4 persons are to be nominated by the Central Government to represent the cotton manufacturing or cotton ginning industry, of which two shall be nominated to represent the industry in the State of Madhya Pradesh and so forth. Now, it is either Government nominating certain interests supposed to be cotton growers or certain officials of the bureaucracy or the trade and industry nominating their representatives. The net result is that the growers do not get a genuine representation and trade and industry get heavily represented at the expense of the growers.

In this representation of the trade and industry we find firstly the name of the East India Cotton Association. We know how the East India Cotton Association came into conflict with the Forward Markets Commission because they sought to put an end to forward trading by the East India Cotton Association. That happened and in the course of the Rajya Sabha debate on this very Bill the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Krishnamachari, had very bitter things to say about it. Yet we find they have representation, although they do not seem to be very much interested in the matter or rather they should not have very much of an interest in the matter.

Secondly, there is the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. As far as I know, they have hardly any activity here. Their activities are confined to Pakistan. Yet, they receive a representation here. I object to these two representations and I hope to move amendments for the deletion of their representations.

One welcome feature of the Bill is the representation of Parliament. We have three Members of Parliament on the Committee now, two from this House and one from Rajya Sabha. But then the peculiar part of it is that although parliamentary representation is provided for, the disqualification arising from that representation is not removed. I hope to introduce an amendment to remove this disqualification also.

Therefore, I would strongly urge that this Bill should be so amended as to serve the real interests of the cotton growers, the real interests of the persons who cultivate cotton and that way the cotton growers may be protected.

The committee consituted may be such, which, without being influenced by the interests of trade and industry may make a proper application of the cess, firstly, to help the cotton growers in growing cotton and, secondly, to carry on such technological and agricultural research as to benefit cotton growers and give our country the wherewithal to improve the production of cotton. For this purpose some device should be found by which cotton growers would get wide representaion in the committee. Secondly, I would urge upon the Government so to arrange the representation that trade and industry are not too heavily represented and, particularly, interests like the East India Cotton Association, who had been formerly guilty of illicit forward trading in cotton, and also the Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, who have practically no interest in India, are not represented on on this committee.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the amendment is a very short one and the Minister in the course of his introductory speech tried to pass on saying that it is a very innocuous sort of amending Bill, we think that he should have given some more detailed information as to the manner in which he proposes to improve the functioning of this particular Board.

Sir, you are well aware of the role of cotton in the economic life of the country and more so in our fight for national liberation. You are also well aware, Sir, that India, which was at one time very famous for her textile goods, used to export textile goods to Europe and other countries and her goods had very support in the foreign markets. When the Britishers came, through methods which were, as you know, uncivilised and barbaric, they deliberately tried to stop and injure practically our entire textile trade and the industry collapsed. Then, naturally, with the advent of the national movement, in 1906 the spirit of swadeshi was roused and we tried to establish at least mills to produce cloth so that the Indian people can put on the cloth made in India and not those brought from Lancashire. After that, in 1920, when Gandhiji came and led the All India National Movement, there was a sort of a new feeling, a new impetus to this movement for the national liberation and to some extent this industry grew up in our country, especially in the western part of India.

Therefore, when we are discussing this provision regarding cotton cess, we should see to what extent this Government, after they came into power, had been in a position to utilise the cess that has been collected under this Cotton Cess Act of 1923.

Sir, shall I continue? I understand there is a half-an-hour discussion at six o'clock. It is already six and I am likely to take some more time.

Mr. Speaker: All right. He may continue on the next day.

FLOOD-AFFECTED DISPLACED PERSONS IN AGARTALA

Mr. Speaker: We will now take up the half-an-hour-discussion. In a half-an-hour discussion the mover takes ten minutes, the Minister takes ten minutes and in between two Members may have five minutes each.

Shri Biren Dutt (Tripura West): Sir, with your permission I wish to raise a half-an-hour discussion on points arising out of answer given on the 16th July, 1956 to Starred Question No. 12.

6 P.M.

I wanted to know how many persons were drowned and how many houses collapsed. I also wanted to know whether any aid was given to the bereaved families. The reply was that that eleven persons were reported to have died and while two persons could be identified, it was found that those two persons were not displaced persons. It is not clear whether the remaining persons were displaced persons or not. It was said in reply to my supplementary question that no

[Shri Biren Dutt]

houses were washed away. I come from that very town of Agartala. Before the displaced persons entered that town, there were only 12,000 families. Now, 16,000 familes are there. Expect the 12,000 families, the rest are displaced persons.

Just after the reply to my question was given, the Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power has given a statement about the situation. He said in that statement that almost all the mud houses have been destroyed. But the Minister of Rehabilitation has stated that not a single house has been destroyed. In this House, whenever we ask any question, such conflicting replies are given.

I should also like to invite your attention and the attention of the House to another point. On the day when my colleague, Shri Desaratha Deb wanted to move an adjournment motion, the Home Minister himself tried to ridicule us before this House and before the official gallery and the visitors' gallery by saying that there was no flood. No Member of the Government was there to see the flood. But yesterday, it was said on behalf of the Government that, under your direction, information had been collected, that there was a flood and that 90 houses have collapsed, that many people have suffered and that the State Government were taking some steps to relieve the situation. If, in answer to our questions, the authorities deal with us in this manner and give answers in this way, we are afraid we cannot discharge our duties by coming to this House. We do not know how we can discharge our responsibilities by coming to this House.

With this background, I want to put certain questions straightway to the Minister. Firstly, I want to know how many houses have been destroyed in Agartala town which were built through the loan granted by the Rehabilitation Ministry to the displaced persons. I want to know how many business shops have been washed away—the business shops which had been built with the loan granted by the Rehabilitation Ministry. How many petitions have been received by the Government of Tripura and by the Central Government from the loanees who had taken loans from the R.A.F. and who have started business in Agartala? I want to know whether any enquiry has been made on those applications.

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): I though we were dealing with the floods—the number of persons who had died and the number of houses that have been washed away, etc. He is referring to R.A.F.

Mr. Speaker: It may be made clear in the course of the reply.

Shri Biren Dutt: I was only trying to drive home the point that there was a serious flood in Agartala town. My purpose was to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that some special measures ought to be taken to relieve the situation. But I was outright floored and was given the false information that no people died and that no houses collapsed. I want to know whether those loanees who had taken loans from the State Government and from the R.A.F. have applied for more loans and begging the Government not to take away the loans already granted to them—both the State loans and the R.A.F. loans.....I have got many copies of the applications which have been forwarded to me. I want to know whether any enquiry has been made. There are some cases where motor-cars which have been purchased have been washed away. Some rickshaws were purchased out of the loan given and they were washed away; some houses were washed away.

You may go through your colleague's report. The State Government or the Central Ministry has not given us any information about these cases. Also, there is a bazaar known as the Agartala bazar near the Howrah river. It has also been badly affected and almost all

the houses have been washed away. They went with me and approached the Secretary, Mr. Mathur, who was sent very recently to visit that area. I toured with him; he has taken a note of the damages and has assured that something will be done.

Displaced persons purchased plots of land and erected houses in Rampur, Ramnagar, Joynagar and Bomamalipur; but, these areas have been requisitioned for building an embankment for protecting the Agartala town from floods. Along with the devastation of the floods, they have been served with notices to give up the plots of land; but, they have not been given any aid to build houses elsewhere. I want to know how many displaced persons have been ordered to evacuate their places for embankment purposes and what type of special relief the Rehabilitation Ministry is considering for them, because only Rs. 1 lakh were sanctioned immediately after the receipt of the news that there was flood. That money also was not earmarked for the rehabilitation of displaced persons, but it was drawn into a general pool. I can say from Government records that *ex gratia* grants from 6 annas to Rs. 50 were given. This was the grant given for relief purposes. This is not my own figure. I am in the committee formed by the Government known as the Flood Relief Enquiry Committee; there we have discussed and collected all the information as to how the money granted was disbursed. It has been stated by the officers that grants of 6 annas up to a maximum of Rs. 50 were given.

Therefore, I would like the Minister to take serious note of these things. Within a week after the floods, seven people had to commit suicide. They were brought to the Agartala hospital for *post mortem* and it was found that they committed suicide due to starving conditions. This is no joke. So I urge upon the Minister to take special care If you give some vague answers, that will not bring relief to those people and that will not create any good impression. If you have got no information at present, you about all these things and tell us should try to get correct information how you are going to give aid to these suffering people.

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle): I should like to know from my hon. friend how many displaced persons, according to his information, have died, and also how many displaced persons have been given help at the rate of Rs. 0-6-0 by the administration.

Shri Biren Dutt: We in that committee requested the Govevrnment to give the name and list. According to one information from the community project area there were about 40 persons who were given Rs. 0-6-0 only. They were all displaced persons.

Mr. Speaker: How many died?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: (Basirhat): He is not the Minister. Why should he answer?

Mr. Speaker: No, no. How many died according to his informations?

Shri Biren Dutt: Eight plus three puls two one. I can give the names, and out of these there was *post mortem* of eight cases in the Agartala hospital.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: They are all displaced persons?

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): They are all displaced persons.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: Let the hon. Member say.

Shri Biren Dutt: Eight persons were displaced persons whose names were registered in the Agartala hospital and the other people were also displaced persons. I can give the names. seven more names of displaced persons.

Shri Dasaratha Deb (Tripura East): My hon. friend Shri Biren Dutt has dealt with .....

Mr. Speaker: The practice is the hon. Member may put one question, two questions, like that.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: The other day Shri Datar has given a reply to my question that the Government of Tripura was very alert about the flood situation, they were roaming from one place to another and they had examined the bunds and were also helping the people, but in another report which has been supplied by the Irrigation and Power Ministry it is said that "the happening was so unexpected and sudden that there was not adequate time to issue warnings to all those who were likely to be affected". May I know why these contradictory reports from the two Ministries?

There is another question regarding the Agartala flood. In reply to my adjourment motion, Pandit Pant said that there was no flood in Tripura State after 3rd June, but in another report supplied by the Irrigation Ministry, it is said:

> "Due to heavy rains, the rivers the Deo and the Dhalai were in floods. Portions of Kalashar town were eroded by the Deo and road communications to the town were cut off. Communications to Kamalpur town were dislocated."

And further the Home Minister was also pleased to reply to me that after that there was a flood at the end of July and that flood continued up to 1st or 2nd August, like that. I want to know why the Home Minister did not even take care and take time to give the correct report to the House. He wanted to mislead the House and try to ridicule us. We represent our constituency. We know our people. We get telegrams. I read out the gist of the telegram, but the Home Minister asked: "Has anybody from this House seen flood in Tripura?" It is not a question of this Member or that Member seeing it. Whether actual flood took place in Tripura State or not, that was the question. It is the Minister who is responsible to get all this information and to supply it to this House. I want to know why they have dealt with it like this.

Another question.....

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): May I rise on a point of order? It will be found that so far as the question that has to be considered is concerned, it relates to flood-affected displaced persons in Agartala, not other persons, and it would not be proper for my hon. friend to go to the general question and make allegations.

Shri K. K. Basu: The reality is that two-thirds of Tripura's population is displaced.

Shri Datar: I can understand discussion about displaced persons, not all those affected by the floods.

Shri K. K. Basu: He does not know that two-thirds of Tripura's population is displaced.

Shri Datar: They are not in Agartala town.

Shri K. K. Basu: You cannot distinguish between displaced persons and undisplaced persons.

Shri Datar: Two-thirds does not mean one.

Shri K. K. Basu: It does not.

I know that. The Minister need not tell me that. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: The first question is whether there were floods, irrespctive of whether they affected displaced persons or non-displaced persons. The hon. Member complained that there were floods. But the Minister did not agree that there were floods at all. That is the first point.

The second point is whether displaced persons were affected. The third is, what relief has been given to the flood-affected persons. Now, the primary condition precedent is that there should have been floods. If there were no floods, then the other question would not arise at all. There is no

question as to whether they were displaced persons or non-displaced persons. In the usual course, they die, and they cannot commit suicide or be washed away by floods if there are no floods.

The whole complaint is that the Minister of Home Affairs had said that there were no floods.

Shri Datar: I never stated like that. That is incorrect.

Mr. Speaker: Not on that day; three days earlier, there were floods.

Shri Datar: In fact, I answered a question that there was a flood, which continued for two or three days. I might also point out to you that a long reply has been sent by the Home Minister himself to the hon. Member.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: That is later. May I point out that I am not referring to this answer? I am referring to.....

Mr. Speaker: I can only say this much. If, on that day, they did not have the information, and later on they had the information, there was no harm in that.

Shri B. Y. Reddy (Karimnagar): But they should not ridicule us like this.

Mr. Speaker: That was a motion of censure.

Shri Dasaratha Deb: May I say a word more?.....

Mr. Speaker: I have given two or three minutes to the hon. Member already. Now, I should call another hon. Member.

Shri Sadhan Gupta (Calcutta South-East): I want to know a few things. Firstly, we find that in the case of territories administered by Government, or areas administered by the Central Government directly, whether it is Tripura or Travancore-Cochin, what happens is that questions are put, and correct answers are never forthcoming, or the information is never forthcoming at all. What is the reason for this?

In particular, regarding floods, we find that two Ministries never agree. The other day, my leader, Shri A. K Gopalan had pointed out that whereas flood relief was actually given in some place in Malabar or Travancore-Cochin, the Home Minister, I think, said that there were no floods there at all. In this case also, we find that in the *Flood Newsletter*, it is mentioned that there were floods in Tripura. But before that, the Home Minister said that there were no floods after June. I would like to know why in the case of these Centrally administered areas, information does not reach in time. Who is inefficient in this matter? Secondly, in the matter of floods, why do the flood waters reach certain Ministries only and certain other Ministries are left high and dry?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I supplement what has been said just now? The House is aware that almost all enquiries regarding the Part C States of Manipur and rTripura aae never satisfactorily replied to. Invariably, the answer is that the information is going to be laid on the Table of the House, or that no information has been gathered, or in case the information is gathered, it is contradictory.

I should like to know, and the House would like to know what the Home Ministry and the Government of India who are directly responsible for the administration of the Part C States are going to do to keep the closest day-to-day touch with the administration of these areas directly, and to make it their special responsibility, because there is no legislature in these areas up-to-date.

Shri Datar: I am rather in a difficult position, because the question related merely and solely to the flood-affected displaced persons. All the same, I desired that I should like to be present here to answer such questions as would arise relevantly out of the main question.

[Shri Datar]

I did not like that the hon. Member should have dealt at great length with the general administration there. I may point out here, that so far as the Home Ministry are concerned, they are always in touch with the Chief Commissioner, and on a number of occasions, we have given the necessary information, in respect of such happenings. Secondly, steps have been taken to see to it that there is immmediate and prompt relief so far as the distress is concerned. Under the circumstances, I submit that there is no justification for making a general or roving charge that the Home Ministry is not taking proper steps. We are taking fully all necessary steps.

I might also add this. There was a flood. It is sought to be stated that there is some inconsistency or discrepancy between what the Home Ministry stated—what I stated or what the Home Minister stated—and what was stated by the Irrigation Ministry. Now, I would point out that so far as these two statements are concerned, they are perfectly in harmony with each other. What happened was that on that particular day when the floods came in, there, it was not possible to know beforehand because the whole thing was sudden. Therefore, all that was said was that it was not possible to give intimation or warning to all the persons concerned. The District Magistrate himself, as also the Superintendent of Police and other officers, actually moved in jeeps all around the town and gave information to as large a section of the population as possible.

Now, it is quite likely that inasmuch as the flood or the inundation was quite sudden and unexpected, a few persons might have remained without any such intimation. But we have got here the clearest statement that our officers—the high officers—went round and gave information. We are trying to find out from the Meteorological department whether timely intimation could be given because we are anxious that there ought not to be any damage or loss to the people, and early intimation should be given. Therefore, we are taking full steps to see that whenever there is a possibility of a flood coming over, we should have some intimation, to the extent that it is possible, from the Meteorological department, and in all cases we give proper warning whenever such intimation is received. We are extremely anxious to see that no loss of life is caused, nor any loss of property.

Under the circumstances, I would submit that the questioner might have restricted himself only to the question of displaced persons, in respect of also I find that an answer was given on behalf of the Rehabilitation Ministry by my hon. colleague, Shri Abid Ali. That question was answered on the 16th July. Therein, it is stated:

> (a) "Eleven persons are reported to have died in Agartala due to floods, two of whom, who could be identified, were *not* displaced persons".

Then in reply to (c) and (d), it was stated:

> "A sum of Rs. 1 lakh was placed at the disposal of the State Government for giving relief to flood-affected displaced persons".

Thus, you will find that all necessary steps are being taken. It is unfortunate that needlessly charges have been levelled and especially exaggeration has been indulged in.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: How do you say it is exaggeration? (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Speaker: Will all Members of the Opposition simultaneously talk?

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that there have been unprecedented floods resulting in loss of life as well as extensive damage to property worth several lakhs and displacement of about 150 families in Agartala. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the victims of this catastrophe, and wish to assure the House that so far as Government are con-

cerned, they have been doing, and are doing, everything possible to mitigate the sufferings of these unfortunate people. My hon. friend, Shri Biren Dutt, unfortunately, was not satisfied with the answer given to the question, No. 12 on the 16th of July. The information given then and any information that I am about to give, I must say, are not different. I can appreciate the hon. Member's anxiety and his effort in trying to focus Government's attention so that relief measures could be speeded up.

In raising this half an hour's debate, he has raised three points; firstly, the extent of loss of life from among displaced persons. In this connection, my hon. colleague, Shri Abid Ali, made a very categorical statement in this House that there were 11 deaths, of whom 2 were identified; and of the 2 and even the rest, there was not one displaced person. We have the latest information from the Government of Tripura. And, I find that reference to the death of any displaced person is not there. That goes to show (*Interruption*) that the 9 persons who were unidentified at that time were not displaced persons. The only other way of showing that no displaced person died would be either by taking a census of the whole population or a census of the D. P. population alone, a large number of over 36,000 or so. It is a big population and I am not quite sure of the figure.

Shri Mehr Chand Khanna: It is about 3½ lakhs.

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: I was thinking it to be about 36,000. Since no D. P. has made a report—in each agency we have a representative and if there were any deaths so far as D. Ps. were concerned, they would have reported the matter to Government—I can say to the House that as far as Government is concerned we have nothing to hide. The facts as given and as stated are correct according to the report.

So far as the second question goes the number of houses built with the aid or loan from Government, I must say that with the aid of Government, that is to say, the loans advanced by Government to D.Ps., 3000 houses have been built in Agartala. Out of this, as a result of the floods, 50 houses had been damaged. None of them belong to the refugees. These houses are what are called 'basha' houses, bamboo structure with plastered walls and cost between Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 excluding the price of land. The 100 houses that were damaged, according to reports, have been repaired. Therefore, there is nothing to suggest that, so far as the displaced population there is concerned, Government have not taken enough measures to see to it that they are quite comfortably set off.

In this connection I may also point out that the Government of India as well as the Rehabilitation Ministry have donated a sum of Rs. 7½ lakhs, and the breakup of this figure is Rs. 3½ lakhs as grants-in-aid, Rs. 2 lakhs as agricultural loans and Rs. 2 lakhs for relief works. In addition to that, the Prime Minister of India has donated a sum of Rs. 50,000 for relief purposes. From the official reports that we have received about the extent of damage caused, I might bring it to the notice of the House that there were three types of crops. One is called *Aus* paddy, and 3,550 acres of paddy land has been damaged to the extent of Rs. 3,69,200; then, *Aman* paddy, 650 acres, the damage estimated is Rs. 1,01,400: then jute, 820 acres, the estimated damage is Rs. 2,05,240; then sugarcane, 26 acres, the estimated damage is Rs. 10,400; all these represent a total loss of Rs. 6,86,240. The number of cattle heads lost is 86. The relief measures so far given by the Government are these:

Cash grants Rs. 3,40,000, including Rs. 2,40,000 under the works scheme; loans advanced Rs. 2,00,000, as agricultural loans for the whole of Tripura; Relief Stores supplied and their estimated value comes to about Rs. 1,50,000. Besides, the Government of Tripura have given three days free supply of rice to the flood-affected persons. So far as the seeds

[Shri J. K. Bhonsle]

etc., are concerned, they are preparing to borrow a thousand maunds of seeds from the Assam Government. Besides this, there are a number of philanthropic institutions and various bodies that have donated large quantities of stores such as clothes, rice, chira, salt, cotton, medicine and the like. If necessary, I am prepared to lay a list on the Table of the House.

The third point raised by my hon. friend is about the nature of aid given to the flood-affected persons in Tripura My hon. colleague has already said that so far as the Ministry of Rehabitation is concerned, we have placed a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 at the disposal of the Tripura Government. It was suggested that this amount should go especially to the displaced persons. I might say in this connection that it is neither feasible nor advisable, when a catastrohe of this kind takes place, to segregate people and give and in different proportions. So far as the Government of Tripura is concerned, they have pooled all resources received from various bodies and they have not made any difference in the distribution of their assistance so far as the displaced persons and others are concerned.

As my hon. colleague has said that since the floods have come almost all of a sudden,—I have read a report which goes to show this—all officers from the highest to the lowest have done their best, and I can assure the House that the report is very thorough and everything possible is being done. I am certain that the Chief Commissioner of Tripura, whom I know very intimately. . . . . .

Shri K. K. Basu: Maybe a Padma Vibhushan.

Shri J. K. Bhonsle: That is something. The Chief Commissioner of Tripura is a military officer who is quite capable and a man who could be trusted to act, in times of emergency like this, in a manner which would have no doubt in the minds of most of the people. I, therefore, beg the House to appreciate that so far as the Tripura Government and the Government of India are concerned, everything possible, as I have said before, has been done and will continue to be done hereafter.

6-35 P.M.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till 11 of the Clock on Thursday, the 16th August, 1956.

COLUMNS

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE . . . 3253-54, 3255

The following papers were laid on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Report of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration for the half year ended the 31st December, 1955, under sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Rehabilitation Finance Administration Act, 1948.

(2) A copy of the Half Yearly Report on the activities of the Coir Board and the working of the Coir Industry Act for the period ending the 31st March, 1956, under sub-section (1) of Section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.

(3) A copy of the informal Memorandum containing some observations on Indian Economic Problems and Policies by the World Bank Mission.

(4) A copy of the statement regarding measures taken for checking rise in prices of foodgrains.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS 1956-57. 3254

Shri M. C. Shah presented a statement showing Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1956-57.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS 1951-52 . . 3254-55

Shri M. C. Shah presented a statement showing Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1951-52.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS 1956-57 (TRAVANCORE-COCHIN). 3255

Shri M. C. Shah presented a statement showing Demands for Supplementary Grants for expenditure of the Travancore-Cochin State for 1956-57.

COLUMNS

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS—PRESENTED . . 3255

Fifty-eighth Report was presented.

BILL REFERRED TO SELECT COMMITTEE . . 3256-3349

The motion to refer the Electricity (Supply) Amendment Bill to a Select Committee was moved by the Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power (Shri Nanda) and discussed. The motion was adopted.

BILLS PASSED . . . 3349-87

The following Bills were considered and passed:

(*i*) Multi-Unit Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

(*ii*) Indian Lac Cess (Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION 3388-94

Discussion on the motion to consider the Indian Cotton Cess (Amendment) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha, was commenced. The discussion was not concluded.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION 3394-3408

Shri Biren Dutt raised a half-an-hour discussion on points arising out of answer given on the 16th July, 1956 to Starred Question No. 12 regarding Flood-affected Displaced Persons in Agartala. Shri J. K. Bhonsle replied to the debate and the discussion was concluded.

AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, 16TH AUGUST, 1956—

Consideration of Bihar and West Bengal (Transfer of Territories) Bill, as reported by Joint Committee.